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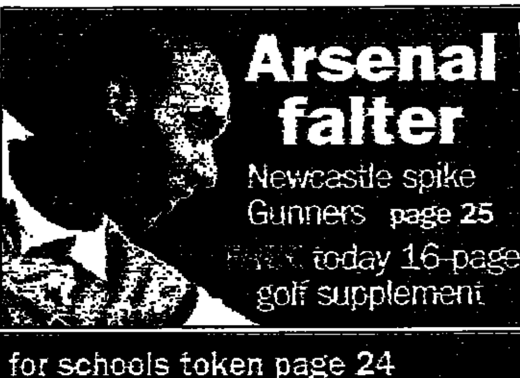
No. 66,449 | MONDAY MARCH 1 1999 | http://www.the-times.co.uk





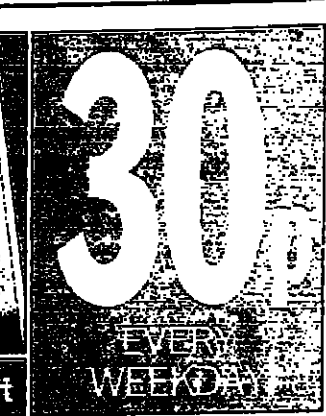
Clothes you can really wear
Lisa Armstrong
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Treasury suffers £2bn revenue shortfall

Bootleggers force Brown's Budget hand

By Philip Webster, political editor

GORDON BROWN is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling.

The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue.

Mr Brown's room for manoeouvre next Tuesday is believed to have been severely curtailed by the shortfall, which was not reflected in the healthy January borrowing figures that encouraged speculation about a generous Budget.

The Treasury has been alarmed by such reports, because the good January figures did not take account of the lost Excise revenue. Treasury insiders are urging caution and one said: "The Chancellor has made plain that he wants to keep to his golden rule that tax revenues have to cover current spending and that the public finances should remain in surplus for the next four years. If the revenues are lower than expected, it means that the amount we spend will not be as much."

That means hopes of much higher public spending emerging from the Budget are likely to be dashed. The allocations made to ministers in last year's comprehensive spending review are not under threat, but requests to Mr Brown for extra spending this year may fall on deaf ears.

It also remained uncertain last night whether Mr Brown would go ahead with his long-promised plan to introduce a 10p income tax rate next week. Most analysts had expected him to do so and to help to finance the change through cutting or wiping out the remaining 10 per cent of mortgage interest relief.

the Chancellor is still believed to want to tax child benefit, although practical difficulties over the principle of independent taxation mean that he is unlikely to do so this year. He may, however, set a target date to start taxing the benefit paid to all mothers.

The Government has been shocked by the rise in tobacco smuggling. Professional crime syndicates are moving to cigarettes because the authorities have been more successful in stopping drugs smuggling. Container-loads of cigarettes are being brought through the ports with the result that one in eight cigarettes smoked in Britain is smuggled, according to government sources. Without a tip-off, Customs officers have little hope of stopping the trade and the loss to the revenue is likely to double within three years unless something can be done to check the trade.

To that end, Mr Brown is to appoint a senior figure from industry to take charge of efforts to clamp down on the illegal trade. His remit will include an overall look at Customs and Excise operations to see whether staff and resources are being deployed in the right way.

Mr Brown has, however, rejected calls to cut tobacco taxation as a way of deterring smuggling, and the cost of a packet of cigarettes is likely to rise by 20p to an average £3.64. Increasing the tax on smoking in part of the Government's health policy.

The new anti-smuggling chief will consider the practicalities of stamping cigarette packets with their countries of origin and the feasibility of equipping ports with giant X-ray machines to inspect containers.

Sources said the investigation would be rigorous and more officials are expected to be assigned to dealing with cigarettes.

"We are are unlikely to put money into Customs unless we are absolutely satisifed that the money is being properly spent. The situation is deeply alarming. Some 2 per cent of the market was smuggled in 1996. That figure has gone up to 10 per cent in two years."

A handshake carefully staged for the cameras marked the end of one of the longest political feuds in British politics on Saturday night (Shirley English writes).

Robin Cook and Gordon Brown officially buried the hatchet after barely speaking to each other socially for 20 years.

The truce was called at a party at Livingston Football Club to mark the Foreign Secretary's 25th anniversary as an MP. The two ministers shook hands while Mr Cook's wife, Gaynor, and Sarah Macaulay, the Chancellor's girlfriend, looked on. A few words of mutual admiration cemented the reconciliation.

DAVID CHESKIN/PA



Sarah Macaulay and Gordon Brown at the celebration to mark Robin Cook's 25 years as an MP

Scottish Parliament to sideline the Queen

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace is dismayed by the Queen's limited role for the ceremonial opening of the Scottish Parliament. Edinburgh has been riven by argument over the extent of the Queen's participation, with some nationalist voices wanting her to have only a minimal walk-on part.

Now, after months of bickering, a compromise has been reached; she will travel in the Scottish State Coach in a horse-drawn procession from the Palace of Holyroodhouse up the City's Royal Mile, but her part in the opening ceremony is expected to be a few formal words. The day's main event will be a "people's procession".

Traditionalists want her to wear the robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, but that has yet to be decided. Many Scots were offended when, in 1953, she made her first official visit to their country after the Coronation wearing ordinary day clothes and carrying a handbag.

Nor has it been agreed what ceremonial role will be given to the country's Crown Jewels, normally displayed in Edinburgh Castle. Some want them carried at the end of the procession from Holyroodhouse. At the annual State Opening of Parliament at Westminster the Imperial State Crown is borne in its own coach.

Palace officials are considering a greater role for the Princess Royal, already the Royal Family's most regular visitor to Scotland with a heavy programme of public engagements. But the Palace yesterday dismissed as "wholly wrong" a report that she would establish a permanent office at Holyroodhouse.

Sources also rejected a suggestion that the Queenwould appoint a Private Secretary for Scotland.

"The Royal Family does not take Scotland — or for that matter Wales — for granted," a Palace source said yesterday. "... Scotland and Wales are important domestic issues and we will be looking closely at how the union develops."

Leading article, page 21

General in poll lead

Amid widespread allegations of vote-rigging, Olu Falae refused to accept the victory of General Olusegun Obasanjo in the Nigerian presidential election.

International observers reported many irregularities and the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy was at risk as members of Mr Falae's All People's Party stormed out of the electoral commission offices during counting ....Page 12

Owen and Healey will mount anti-euro drive

By Philip Webster, political editor

DAVID OWEN and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the political front line today to present a challenge to the Government's move towards the euro.

Along with Lord Prior, the Heathite former Tory Cabinet minister, and leading businessmen, they will join forces in a powerful new group billed as pro-European but opposed to Britain abandoning sterling.

Their move comes the day after William Hague hardened his party's stance against the euro and made plain that he would be happy to be at the forefront of any anti-euro campaign.

The Conservative party leader brushed aside the announcement by five Europhile Tories that they would stand against the party in June's European elections and, in what was seen as a warning to Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, said that any Tory MPs failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear." He also announced a policy commission of economists and experts to study the advantages of keeping the pound. Mr Hague dismissed the newly formed Pro-Euro Conservative Party as a "sour grapes" party because two of the leaders had been deselected.

Tony Blair's perceived shift towards the euro as he launched the national changeover plan last week has given new urgency to today's launch. Lord Healey, the last Labour Chancellor before Gordon Brown, yesterday delivered a warning that the euro could crash before Mr Blair was called upon to make a decision. Imposing a single interest rate and exchange rate meant the project was doomed to failure, he said.

Lord Prior, a former Northern Ireland Secretary and Employment Secretary and former chairman of GEC, issued a warning that monetary union could mean heavier social, labour and pension costs and that Britain should "give it a miss".

He said that he was sad to be in the opposite camp to his old friend and boss, Edward Heath. "But it is because I felt so strongly about this I decided it was time to stand up and be counted."

Lord Owen, former Labour Foreign Secretary, declared that he wanted Britain to remain self-governing. He will lead the New Europe group, to be launched in London this morning. He said he believed in the EU and single market, but did not want to be "dragged into a single state".

Straw returns to more controversy

By Claudia Joseph and Philip Webster

THE Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Having evaded the media during his weekend in the south of France, Jack Straw will return to new claims of bungling in the Lawrence case and calls for his resignation. But his most pressing task will be the publication of another critical report on race relations in the police force, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Instead of facing MPs himself, Mr Straw left his deputy, Paul Boateng, to make an emergency statement to the Commons apologising for the "serious and regrettable" errors which led to publication of the names and addresses of police informants in the Macpherson report.

Yesterday Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Straw should be "considering his position". The Home Secretary should have been in Britain, offering reassurance to witnesses and checking that they had not been placed in danger, Sir Norman claimed.

The Inspectorate of Constabulary report today is expected to castigate forces for not doing enough to combat racism a

Continued on page 2, col 8



"He must be trying to avoid Jack Cunningham"

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Beano original sells for £6,000

By Hannah Betts

DENNIS the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the *Beano* was published in 1938. Instead, Big Eggo the ostrich ruled the roost, a character long since consigned to comic history.

Lord Snooty is the only relic from 1938 to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction yesterday for £6,200, the largest sum ever paid for a comic in Britain.

The proud owner is Oliver Driscoll, 25, from Matlock, Derbyshire, a cameraman who grew up on the exploits of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher. After a battle of nerves in the auction room, Mr Driscoll felt he had got excellent value for money.

"It's brilliant," he enthused, holding back tears of emotion. "I've always been a big fan of the *Beano* and a first edition is something I've long since had my eye on."

The comic, dated July 30, 1938, is one of only six copies of the first edition known to be in existence. Its value was boosted because it came with the only known surviving Whoopee mask, a cover-mount given away free to readers.

The original owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a 70-year-old man from the West Country whose son galvanised him into action after watching a television programme about the value of old comics. The comic was bought for him by his mother for the princely sum of two old pennies — less than 1p.

Euan Kerr, today's *Beano* editor, said: "In those days, a comic was a completely throwaway item and nobody would have thought of keeping them, which is why they are so rare. This owner hadn't been keeping it as an heirloom. It had just been sitting up in a loft gathering dust."

The first edition *Beano*, complete with mask

Lords commission expected to stumble over tight deadline

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

THE Royal Commission on House of Lords reform meets today for the first time amid growing criticism of its membership and timetable.

The 12-member body headed by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory minister, is expected to hammer out its work programme for the coming months and hold an initial discussion of the potential options for radical constitutional change.

The Commission has been ordered by the Government to report by the end of the year. If successful, the Commission will have been the shortest ever and will have solved in exactly 10 months, a thorny constitutional riddle which has remained unanswered for more than a century.

Constitutional experts believe the tight deadline means the Commission will not have time to think radically and will, instead, propose conservative reforms which are acceptable to the Government.

Concerns have also been raised privately in the Lords over the distinguished but hardly radical membership of the Commission. Comprising nine men and three women, it includes Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Tory foreign secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet secretary, and Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, a former Clerk of the Parliaments.

The chief fear is that the Commission will simply follow the lead given by the Government in its recent White Paper and propose a mostly appointed second chamber with a modest, indirectly elected element.

"Whether the Royal Commission will be influenced in that direction remains to be seen," Lord Richards, the sacked Labour leader in the Lords, said last week. "I hope it will resist that temptative."

Writing in Bristol University's latest newsletter, Donald Shell, senior lecturer in politics and leading expert on the Lords, said: "One does wonder how serious an exercise the Commission and the chairmanship of Lord Wakeham is intended to be. Giving the task to a bunch of busy people who will manage a few meetings between now and the end of the year implies that ministers want a solution to the House of Lords' problem, rather than any serious reflection on the role of the second chamber in the context of other constitutional reforms underway."

Some peers believe that if the Royal Commission does come up with radical proposals unacceptable to the Government, its report will simply be ignored. Lord Carter, the Chief Whip in the Lords, said last week during a debate on reform, that there would be "no question" of the Royal Commission being ignored.

He added, however: "No government is bound by the conclusions of a royal commission. We cannot predict that the outcome of the Commission's work will be wholly acceptable to the Government."

Mr Shell believes that if the so-called Weatherill Amendment temporarily saving 91 hereditary peers from expulsion survives, the Government would be very tempted to ignore the Royal Commission's work and just allow the transitional, appointed second chamber to become the long-term status quo. The amendment, expected to be tabled next month, when the first stage House of Lords Bill expelling hereditary peers reaches the Lords, was a government compromise to buy off Tory Peers threatening Parliamentary trench warfare.

The Commission will meet initially for a buffet lunch today at its Westminster offices in London.

Leading article, page 21

Jay faces row on change in rape evidence

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE Minister for Women, Baroness Jay of Paddington, was last night at the centre of a row over government plans to reform the admissibility of women's sexual history as evidence in rape trials.

The proposals are shortly to be considered by the House of Lords. They are opposed by both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the organisation Women against Rape — for conflicting reasons.

The controversy has been fuelled by the disclosure that the Government's own Women's Unit, headed by Lady Jay, says that there are times when a woman's sexual history may be relevant. In particular, the unit says that it could be relevant to whether a man thought a woman had consented to sex or not — the attacker's defence that he "thought she wanted it".

The Women's Unit says: "A defendant might claim that he believed the complainant was consenting because he had been told that she always kicked and screamed during sex. This would be relevant to his honest belief."

The disclosure, in a letter to Women Against Rape, has outraged and dismayed the group, which argues that the Home Secretary's proposals give wide latitude for a woman's sexual history to be admitted. Under present law, a man cannot be convicted of rape if he honestly believed a woman consented. This is based on a ruling in 1976.

In a reply to the Women's Unit, Women against Rape condemn the failure by Lady Jay to meet their request — backed by 200 organisations — to support a ban on questions about sexual history in rape trials. "How can rape victims expect protection if after two decades of campaigning for protective laws, the Women's Unit — which is supposed to represent their interests — believes rapists' lies over women's evidence?" the pressure group says. "Rapist after rapist has been allowed to walk free after claiming that the victim he had beaten black and blue loved 'rough sex'."

Jack Straw's proposals seek to curb judges' discretion on admitting as evidence a woman's sexual history. But judges would be able to admit such material where it is evidence of a man's belief in consent. Women Against Rape say that this means the protection which the proposals appear to give would evaporate. They want tighter restrictions.

The Lord Chief Justice is arguing that what is admitted should be at the discretion of the trial judge, as now. The Bill will also stop defendants cross-examining their victims, a move opposed by the Lord Chief Justice — and also by Women Against Rape.

Ruth Hall, of Women against Rape, said: "This is a false protection. Most rapists are represented by barristers who are more skilled than themselves in humiliating and discrediting victims." The issue was not who asked the questions, but what questions were asked, she added. "Many countries now ban sexual history evidence. None makes an exception for a man who claims he believed that a woman who was kicking and screaming was consenting."

The proposals are contained in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill and are expected to debated by peers at the Bill's Report stage.

The Women's Unit says that Lady Jay shares the concern of Women against Rape that "irrelevant evidence about complainants' previous sexual history should be kept out of sexual offence trials".

The Lord Chief Justice wishes to retain the discretion that judges currently have on whether sexual history be allowed; but Women against Rape argue that the Government's proposals create a huge gateway for sexual history to be admitted. Lord Thomas of Gresford has highlighted the fundamental flaw in the Bill that "in almost every case where the defence is one of consent, there will be an additional defence that, even if the complinant did not consent, the defendant reasonably believed that she did consent".



Errol Kerr loves figures so much that he is able to recognise video films by the serial numbers that flash up

Boy has genius figured out at 3

HE HAS a photographic memory, can count to ten in five languages including Swahili, recognises videos by their serial number, has an IQ of 150 — all at the age of three.

Errol Kerr, who has just started nursery school, has astonished his family and teachers. His parents, Alison, and Steven, are desperately trying to keep up with their son's insatiable appetite for knowledge.

Mrs Kerr, 33, from South Shields, noticed her son's talent when he was just a baby. "He was very demanding. I could only feed him or dress him when I played certain kinds of music. It was if the words were registering with him. When he was about 12 months I used to put Disney videos in the recorder for him, but he would shout out what they were before they came on the television I tried to do it without showing him the cover, but he still knew what it was. It was then I realised that he was recognising the serial number that flashes up before the trailers start.

"Before he was two he could name every make of car on the road. He would say 'There's a Nissan' or 'There's a Volvo'." Tests showed that Errol had an IQ level in reading and comprehension of 150, equivalent to that of an eight-year-old.

The local authority has assigned education experts to monitor the boy's progress. A spokesman for South Tyneside Education Authority said: "Errol has outstanding ability."

Mrs Kerr, a computer operator who has two other children, said: "I don't know where he gets it from; he certainly doesn't take after me or my husband."

Cars end sales rush confusion by T-time

By Michael Paterson

A QUIET motoring revolution took place today as T-time arrived early. T-reg numberplates were being introduced only seven months after S-reg ones.

In recent years, a quarter of new car sales have been in the first few days of August, the month for new registration letters since 1967. But car industry representatives had complained that manufacturers had to stockpile cars and could not guarantee to give customers the best service in the annual late summer scramble.

The Government is allowing new registration plates to be released in March and September. The new letter is the first step in the overhaul of the traditional car registration system, which will switch to a continental-style regional identification system by 2001.

Those who covet the latest letter seemed unaware of the impending change yesterday. Since 1992, Dees, a large Ford showroom in Croydon, South London, has marked the arrival of new letters by opening at midnight, sometimes with a steel band. Last night it stayed shut.

One of its salesmen, Jason Chuter, said: "More than half the people looking for a new car this weekend didn't even know the T-reg was about to arrive."

He said that it was too cold for midnight celebrations, which would probably return in September.

The move to a twice-yearly letter change, which is being paid for by manufacturers after they requested the move, will even out demand for new vehicles over the year, according to experts.

Police investigate MoD hacker claim

SCOTLAND YARD'S Fraud Squad is investigating allegations that a hacker has succeeded in breaking into secret military installations in Britain (Michael Evans writes).

Fraud Squad officers who are responsible for investigating offences against the Computer Misuse Act began inquiries after suspicions that several "international sites", including military installations, had been targeted by a hacker. Scotland Yard confirmed that an investigation was under way but refused to give any more information.

Ministry of Defence sources firmly denied a report that a hacker had managed to take control of one of Britain's military communications satellites and had altered its course. The MoD's Skynet 4 satellites provide secure communications for all British Armed Forces overseas. Until last week there were four such satellites in orbit. Last week a fifth satellite was launched on an Ariane rocket at the European Space Centre in French Guiana. MoD sources said all the Skynet satellites were "on course" and denied that a hacker had tried to interfere with them.

A *Sunday Business* report claimed that the MoD had had to report that one of its satellites had been taken over by a hacker. The MoD sources said the satellites were immune from hacking.

IRA weapons will not be forfeited, say chiefs

By Martin Fletcher, chief Ireland correspondent

SINN FEIN'S leaders emphatically ruled out IRA disarmament yesterday as several thousand supporters attended a Belfast rally to demand their party's immediate and unconditional inclusion in Northern Ireland's new government.

"There's not even the remotest possibility of the IRA responding to this unilateral demand . . . for the surrender of the IRA," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told the BBC.

He added that Unionists were "unable to accept that in the course of 30 years they hadn't the ability to militarily defeat the IRA".

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's more moderate chairman, issued the same defiant message at the afternoon rally. He accused Unionists of fighting a rearguard action against change and nationalist empowerment, and said their veto on full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement had to be removed.

"We are sick, sore and tired of [Unionists] blocking, stalling, prevaricating, making deals then backing out of deals and constantly trying to rewrite the Good Friday agreement," he said.

The Government has set Wednesday week as a target date for transferring power to Northern Ireland. That will not happen unless the new executive has been set up but David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will not set up an executive that includes Sinn Fein without a downpayment of IRA weaponry. Mr McLaughlin insisted Sinn Fein was committed to contributing to building trust, but any capitulation to Unionist demands would be a betrayal.

Straw family take flights on cheap

By Claudia Joseph

THE Home Secretary and his wife, Alice, who earn more than £150,000 between them and run three houses, saved £360 by flying to the south of France on the budget airline easyJet.

EasyJet's most expensive flights, from Luton to Nice, cost £129 each way but Mr Straw, who earns £87,851, booked the tickets before Christmas at a discount price of £39 each.

Like the other passengers on the two-hour cut price flight, the couple, who have been married for 20 years, were not offered a meal on the aeroplane, just crisps, biscuits and hot and cold drinks. It is the second time the couple have saved money on airline flights. Last week's Register of Members' Interests disclosed that the Straw family obtained an upgrade to club class on their British Airways flights to and from Delhi over Christmas, saving them £8,280.

Mr Straw, 52, who has been an MP since 1979, and his wife, who is the second most senior civil servant in the Department of Health, enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Mrs Straw, 49, earns between £75,210 and £109,420 as director of resources and service. They own three houses, including the family home in a fashionable square in London.

Straw back to face a new outcry

Continued from page 1

year after an initial report found weaknesses.

While Mr Boateng stood at the despatch box, Mr Straw and his wife Alice, a senior civil servant at the Department of Health, were in the middle of a flight to the French Riviera.

The couple bought their easyJet budget flight tickets in December, at a cost of £39 each way instead of £129, but chose not to change it despite the airline allowing passengers to change their flights for £10 plus the difference in seat prices.

Instead they caught the 10.45am easyJet flight from Luton Airport to Nice, only informing a handful of Whitehall officials where they were going.

In a direct message to the black community, Tony Blair will today tell the *New Nation* newspaper that Britain is lagging behind the United States in its treatment of ethnic minorities.

"In all honesty, I don't think I can say that enough has been done to improve race relations in the UK," he says.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev Dr John Sentamu, who was one of Sir William's inquiry team, said it took full responsibility for including informants' details in the report's appendices.

Russian threat will cost RAF £1bn for new missile

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

THE Ministry of Defence will spend £1 billion to replace one of the missiles selected for the RAF's Eurofighter in order to counter the threat of a new Russian air-to-air missile.

Western intelligence services have warned that the new Russian missile will be faster and have a longer range than the medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) to be fitted to the Eurofighter. The RAF is buying 232 Eurofighters at a cost of £15 billion. The first are due to come into service in 2002.

Although a cash shortage has stopped work on the new Russian missile, it is feared that countries that have Russian fighters, such as China and India, may help fund the programme. Intelligence services believe that it will take four years to finish developing the missile.

The British and other European defence ministries still try to stay ahead of Russian weapons technology because Moscow sells its arms to an increasing number of foreign customers. Defence sources stressed that the Eurofighter would still have a more sophisticated radar than the best Russian fighters, as well as better defensive systems and electronic warfare equipment.

However, the potential threat posed by the Russian missile is being taken so seriously that the Government is to approve the development of a superior weapon. The MoD is this week expected to ask for final bids for a missile that will able to hit a target at least 70 miles away. The range of AMRAAM is only about 20 miles. The contract is expected to be awarded during the summer.

The choice to be made is between a European collaboration involving, among others, British Aerospace and GEC, and an American system developed by the Raytheon company, makers of the AMRAAM.

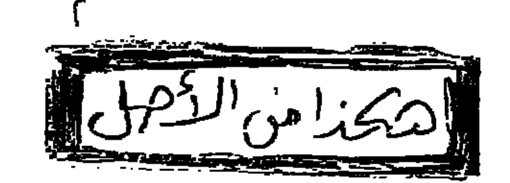
The European missile, called Meteor, would not be in operation until about 2007, five years after Eurofighter comes into service. Raytheon is offering an interim weapon system based on AMRAAM which could be ready by 2004 and a more advanced missile, comparable to the Meteor, about three years later.

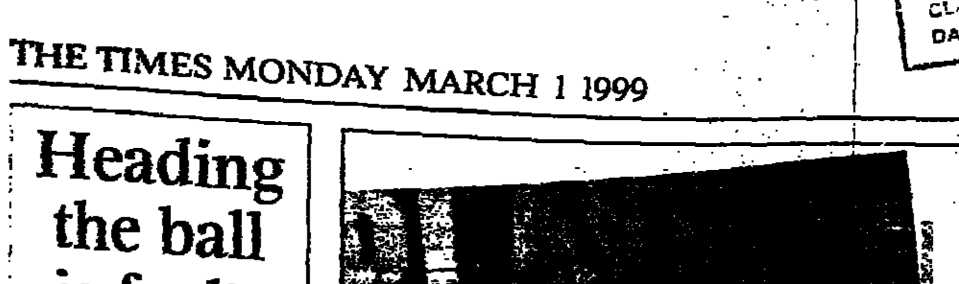
The European consortium has dismissed Raytheon's interim missile as "inadequate".

The Government is being warned that if it chooses the Raytheon weapon, it could put at risk export sales of the Eurofighter because Congress in Washington has the power to veto the sale of any aircraft armed with an American missile.

Sources in the European consortium said the Meteor would have a significantly better performance than the existing AMRAAM, using a German-designed ramjet propulsion system. They said the motor of the AMRAAM only functioned at top speed for about seven seconds, after which the missile began to slow down, reducing its "killing" ability at the far end of its maximum range.

In recent clashes over Iraq, Iraqi MiG jets were able to outrun AMRAAMs launched by American fighters.





Heading the ball is fool's game, says GP

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

HEADING the ball outside the penalty area should be banned to protect football players from brain injury, according to a GP who advises a league club.

David Kernick, medical officer to Exeter City, says that a rule change is needed immediately as evidence mounts that repeated heading may cause mental decline.

Writing in *The British Journal of General Practice*, published today, Dr Kernick says it is estimated that there are over a million regular soccer players in Britain alone. In view of the huge numbers active in the sport round the world, if heading the ball caused even a slight amount of brain damage there would be significant public health consequences.

Although the dangers of serious head injury while playing the game are recognised, there is conflicting evidence about whether heading the ball is hazardous.

A benefits tribunal in Scotland last year rejected an appeal for compensation by Billy McPhail, a former Celtic star, who claimed that his pre-senile dementia was caused by frequently heading heavy leather balls. He scored a hat trick of headers when Celtic beat Rangers 7-1 in the 1957 Scottish Cup Final and Sir Tom Finney, giving evidence on his behalf, told the tribunal: "Billy was outstanding in the air ... There's got to be a link between heading these balls and problems in later life."

A recent survey using brain scans on professional Norwegian players found they did suffer real neurophysiological impairment. Another study of Norwegian amateur players published in *The Lancet* also found subtle changes in their ability to reason.

The Football Association's medical committee is to start a career-long monitoring programme of 15 apprentices to see if heading the ball causes permanent damage. They will be reviewed every five years.

Dr Kernick says that it will be difficult to obtain clear evidence, but the latest studies do imply that heading poses a danger. He accepts that it would be impossible to ban heading altogether because it is an essential part of the game and "offers an important dimension of play, particularly around the goalmouth".

However, because of the risks, he argues that a compromise may be acceptable. "There can be few global health proposals that cost nothing, are easy to implement and have the potential to confer benefit on such a large number of people," he said.



The bi-monthly magazine will have a readership of 10,000 but the advertisements are aimed at the elite with seven-figure transfer fees rather than the less affluent world outside the Premier League

Title for men with world at their feet

By Dominic Kennedy

THE first lifestyle magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and luxury yachts.

The Players' Journal is distributed free to an elite of 1,000 men with a combined earning power of about £361 million, most of it highly disposable.

The advertisements tempt the Premiership's finest with playthings such as a yacht which cruises the Caribbean for $87,500 a week, and a Fiat Autodelta car, which does 0-60 in 6.2 seconds and has a top speed of 152mph. For the less playful, there is a modern mansion with almost as many bathrooms as bedrooms, costing £1.9 million.

They are also adverts to attract the wives and girlfriends who help to spend the seven-figure transfer fees and bonuses.

"Footballers do it by numbers" says the advertisement for Classic Nouveau Registrations, which offers personalised number plates such as FAS 7, 60 GO and MSNEY, with prices up to £99,500.

There are lots of glossy colour pictures, mainly action shots of famous players from Bobby Charlton to Michael Owen, in the 130 pages of the bimonthly produced by the Professional Footballers Association. The cover boy is David Beckham. The articles give an idea of the tribulations of a rich and famous footballer's life. A section headed "Can I thump him?" contains five pages of advice about how to tackle nosy reporters and photographers. A sports lawyer writes: "Apart from the fleeting moment of pleasure that it may give, hitting a member of the press or a photographer will almost certainly result in an action being taken against you."

The Health and Fitness section has an introduction to the hamstring, complete with pictures of a masked surgeon, players being stretchered away in agony, and Alan Shearer warming up. (Next issue: your pulse and what it's telling you.)

An article headlined "Villas go top" gives tips on how to arrange a sunshine break in a remote villa, because "luxury, privacy and independence score highly in your list of holiday priorities".

Another feature asks: "What sort of player is the ad man's dream?" After five pages of consideration, the author concludes: "Blend the skill and application of Kenny Dalglish and the flair and high profile of George Best, and you have the ad man's dream."

The Players' Journal itself is the real ad man's dream. The magazine is being delivered through the doors of all PFA members, and is the only way to target this highly lucrative niche market. The readership is about 10,000.

Not everything is decadence and pleasure in a footballer's world. HSBC Personal Disability Insurance has an advertisement showing a player on a stretcher with the ironic headline "A great future!"

Next to the "Can I thump him?" feature is an advertisement for automated gates, and a few pages later is one for bodyguards.

Ken Bruce, chief executive of Futures In Sport, which has taken a two-page spread for management training courses, thinks *The Players' Journal* may have too many pages. "The majority of footballers seem to have a very low boredom threshold," he said. "They don't seem the sort of people to sit down and read a 130-odd page magazine."

While it is easy to imagine a footballer's girlfriend such as Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams browsing through the advertisements, the magazine may leave a Third Division player struggling to pay the mortgage feeling a little cold.

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

Shearer scores over the tycoons

By Dominic Kennedy

ALAN SHEARER, the England and Newcastle striker, is reported to be Britain's highest earning footballer, with £17.5 million a year including a long-term £20 million boot deal with Umbro.

The wages and salaries bill of the Premier League was £218 million, according to the latest Deloitte Touche survey, while even the journeymen of the Third Division received £18 million.

Footballers' earnings have been rising rapidly, by more than 25 per cent a year, and the figure for this season is likely to be considerably higher.

The Deloitte Touche survey put the total wage bill of the 92 league clubs at £361 million, but that excludes the sponsorship deals which can increase a player's cash earnings fivefold. Well-known players from all divisions often have to pay nothing for luxuries as sponsors lavish them with designer boots, socks, shirts and even sports cars.

Manchester Utd spent £23 million on salaries, Newcastle United £17 million, Arsenal and Liverpool £15 million each. Hartlepool United spent £503,000. Paul Gascoigne is reputed to earn £13.5 million a year, David Beckham £9.4 million, Michael Owen £7 million.

The basic salary of a chief executive in the FTSE 100 is £428,000, although that is boosted to £617,000 with his annual bonus and long-term incentive plan. Charles Brady of the global investment service AMVESCAP earns £25 million a year. The Prime Minister gets £102,750 on top of his MP's salary of £45,066 (although Tony Blair chooses to draw just over £60,000).

Spice babies 'at risk of deafness'

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE Spice Girls' babies are in danger of being born slightly deaf, new research suggests. The children's ears are at risk because of the noise level at concerts performed by their mothers.

Melanie Brown, known as "Scary Spice", gave birth to a daughter last week and "Posh Spice" Victoria Adams is expecting a baby within a couple of months.

Researchers have found that even in the womb, such noise can permanently damage a child's hearing. Unborn babies can also be partially deafened if their mothers mow the lawn, ride in power boats or are exposed to prolonged noise at their workplace.

"While we don't have direct evidence, we recommend that pregnant women avoid such noise exposures if possible," Professor Kenneth Gerhardt, of Florida University, told the National Hearing Conservation Society at Atlanta, Georgia. "The rule of thumb is that if you have to speak loudly to be understood, that noise environment is potentially dangerous to your hearing and your infant's hearing."

Linda Frazier, of the University of Kansas, said that human studies had shown that the loss of hearing among children of women who worked in noisy places was enough to make it difficult for them to hear teachers at school and possibly cause learning difficulties.

As many as 840 children born in Britain each year have a significant hearing impairment. The National Deaf Children's Society said that the problem was not noticed in half of the children until they were 18 months old, and that it was not noticed diagnosed in a quarter of them until they were 3½. Thousands more suffer hearing loss through illness or accident. As many as a quarter of five-year-olds have lost hearing as a result of ear infections.

Thin Red Line defies US attack

By Shirley English

WAR is being waged over the title of the American film *The Thin Red Line*, which went on general release this weekend. Concern has been expressed that the phrase which described British troops in the Crimean War will be lost to Hollywood's definition in the minds of young moviegoers.

The director Terrence Malick's three-hour war epic, starring Sean Penn and Nick Nolte, tells of an American attempt to capture the Pacific island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese forces in 1942.

The film's publicity attributes the title's origin to an old saying from the American Mid-West: "There is only a thin red line between the sane and the mad." Britons hold that the phrase originated with *The Times* war correspondent Sir William Howard Russell, who used it to describe the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders at the Battle of Balaclava on October 25, 1854.

Forming a two-deep defensive line to repel the Russian advance, he said in his dispatch that their scarlet tunics appeared as a "thin red streak topped with a line of steel".

The phrase "the thin red line" was later attributed to him and the regiment, now the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, adopted it as its own. Despite the regiment abandoning red tunics for dark green jackets and Black Watch tartan kilts, the phrase remains the title of the regimental magazine. The event inspired one of the best known 19th-century battle paintings, *The Thin Red Line* by Robert Gibb, the Scottish artist.

Tim Hall, of Thin Red Line, a shirtmaker in Savile Row, London, which supplies the military, said yesterday: "We are proud of the historical and British connotations of our name and naturally it is of some concern to us that as a result of the Terrence Malick film the phrase will be widely misunderstood."

victim

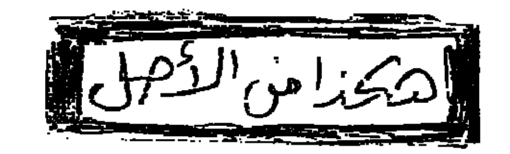


Real fur. It's to die for. In fact, every year tens of thousands of mink do, on fur farms throughout the UK. In the wild* mink establish territories of over a kilometre, where they climb, dive and swim. On farms, they are confined in rows of tiny cages. In such restricted conditions mink show abnormal behaviour. There are instances of fur-biting and even self-mutilation. We at the RSPCA believe that this is cruel. Nevertheless, there are still those who would kill for a real mink coat. The preferred method of slaughter on most farms is to gas the mink. On March 5th, the MP Maria Eagle's Bill to ban fur farming in the UK will be debated in the Commons. A new opinion poll revealed that 74%† of the British public support a ban on fur farming. If you're part of this majority please write to your MP urging them to attend the House on March 5th and to vote in favour of the Bill. Then next season we might see fur coats where they belong. On the backs of their original owners.



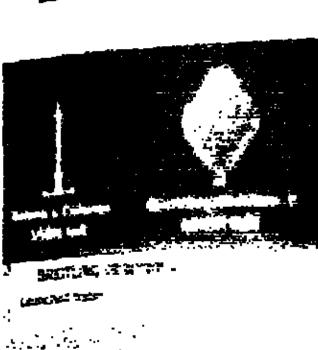
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE RSPCA ON 01403 223 284.

*NOT INDIGENOUS TO BRITAIN. †MORI FEB 1999. THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS. RECONSTRUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH RESPECT FOR ANIMALS. www.rspca.org.uk



Fight
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Rivals o



Fight fan dies as riot breaks out after bout

By Michael Paterson

A BOXING fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulancemen as they tried to save the man's life.

The 31-year-old was carried into the coach for treatment but rioters, one swinging a chain above his head, forced their way inside. Windows were smashed and passengers assaulted while the ambulancemen attempted to revive him.

Fighting broke out between supporters after the Commonwealth middleweight title bout between Jason Lewis and Paul Jones at Oldham Sports Centre on Saturday. The conflict spilled out into the car park, where the man was fatally injured. He will be named today.

The ambulancemen, who asked not to be named, spoke of their horror at the fighting. One, who has 15 years experience, said: "It was the sheer level of violence that shocked us. It was a baying mob. Anyone else could have run away or defended themselves but we were there with a job to do. We were there to save someone's life and we couldn't just leave."

His colleague, in his 40s, said: "We are used to dealing [with situations] where violence does occur, but not of this magnitude."

The man who died had travelled from London in the coach to watch the fight between Jones, 32, of Sheffield, and Matthews, 28, from Hackney, East London. A sell-out crowd of about 1,000 saw Matthews win after Jones was disqualified by the referee, John Coyle, in the seventh round for continuous holding.

Greater Manchester Police are to examine the role that alcohol played in the night's events. Some witnesses reported that many fans had been drinking.

A spokesman for Frank Warren's Sports Network, which promoted the show, said that no comment would be made as the violence had not happened in the boxing arena. The British Boxing Board of Control said: "We deeply regret this tragic loss of life of a young man who had come to enjoy himself at a boxing tournament. There had been no trouble inside the hall and the boxing that had taken place had been enjoyable and robustly supported, apart from a disappointing main event."

Violence at boxing bouts is becoming more regular. The most recent outbreak was last July, when fans of Michael Smyth threw chairs and punches as he lost to Geoff McCreesh in a British welterweight title bout in Reading.

Some bouts may attract football hooligans. The Football Intelligence Unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service has attended boxing matches, notably the light-middleweight contest between Robert McCracken, a Birmingham City fan, and Steve Foster, a Manchester United fan,in 1994.

Boxing, page 38

Murdered girl's body found in shallows

By Michael Harvey

THE body of a 15-year-old girl was found in a lake by two boys skateboarding at the weekend. She had been murdered.

The body of Rachel Glenn was discovered in the shallows at Charnwood Water in Loughborough, Leicestershire. She had disappeared on Wednesday.

Police confirmed that Rachel died from drowning but said there were signs of a struggle and that head injuries may have been a contributory factor in her death.

The area was sealed off by police yesterday as divers searched the lake for clues. Officers also searched surrounding parkland.

Detective Superintendent Bryan Warraker, who is leading the investigation, said Rachel had last been seen by friends on Wednesday but was only reported missing by her mother on Friday. He said: "It was not unusual for Rachel to go off with her friends. On this occasion we were contacted when all the other checks her parents had done failed to locate her."

Police arrested an 18-year-old local youth yesterday in connection with the murder. He was being questioned at Loughborough police station


SIMON WALKER

Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl who has become a top model

Schoolgirl is a hit in fashion world

By Deborah Brett in Milan and Claudia Joseph

DONATELLA VERSACE unveiled her Versus line last night at Alcatraz, the Milan nightclub, with the help of her new muse Devon.

Measuring in at a mere 5ft 6in, Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl, is even shorter than Kate Moss, who at 5ft 7in was an exception to the catwalk height rule of at least 5ft 10in. With long light-brown hair and hazel eyes, Devon has caught the eye of the fashion photographers Jürgen Teller and Steven Meisel, who featured her in Italian *Vogue*, and has landed the Chanel and Versus advertising campaigns as well as being a favourite of the designer Yohji Yamamoto.

She fits in modelling around her schoolwork and shot the Versus advertisements last week before returning to London to attend lessons for the rest of the week.

Sarah Doukas, managing director of the model agency Storm, signed Devon after Miss Moss, another client, spotted her in an American magazine. Ms Doukas, who knew Devon's parents previously, said: "She is one of the most successful girls in the world at the moment but is also very academic. The work she has done is exceptional.

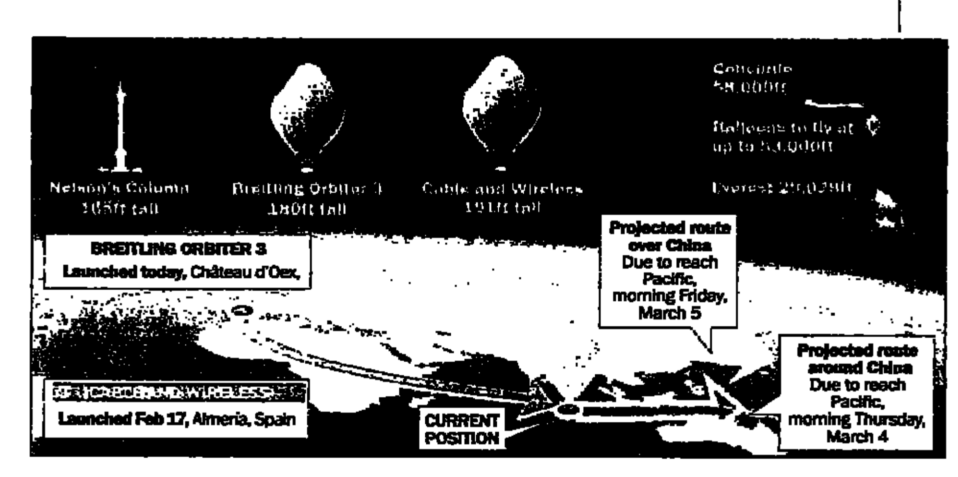
It is no longer seen as a hindrance for shorter girls to appear on the catwalk, as clothes are always fitted to each model beforehand.

The search for a new face, a representation of the look a label wants to achieve, has gathered pace to the point where a new muse is now proclaimed every season.

Devon, whose mother accompanies her on trips, seems unphased by all the attention. As a teenager she is more enamoured with skateboarding and bands than her modelling career.

Last night, after-show entertainment was provided by the Grammy award-winning Lenny Kravitz, who took to the stage for a one-hour concert.

Rivals on tail of Briton who designed their balloon



From Helen Rumbelow in Château d'Oex

THE record-breaking balloonists Andy Elson and Colin Prescot are facing a challenge from a craft due to be launched in Switzerland today. It would be the first time two round-the-world attempts have been pitted against each other in the air.

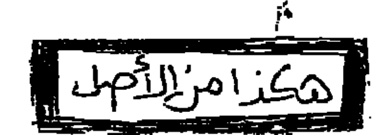
Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss psychiatrist, and Brian Jones, a British ballooning instructor, are attempting lift-off in Breitling Orbiter 3. Although Mr Elson and Mr Prescot have more than ten days' start, they are handicapped by being unable to catch the fast winds over China.

All British-registered balloons were banned from China after Richard Branson trespassed into its air space at Christmas. This has cost the Cable and Wireless team nearly a week as it made a detour. Mr Elson and Mr Prescot, who beat the world record of ten days in the air over Burma on Saturday, are moving at a frustrating 25mph as they try to clear the Bay of Bengal without drifting north to China.

They predict they will reach the Pacific by Thursday at the earliest. Mr Piccard and Mr Jones aim to tail them into the Pacific by Friday and may overtake shortly afterwards if their winds are favourable.

Mr Elson has built his own possible Nemesis: the Breitling team is taking advantage of his balloon design from when he was its engineer and pilot last year. He spent nine days aloft with Mr Piccard, an attempt also thwarted by a Chinese ban. Although they are both balloon fanatics — Mr Piccard is the grandson of Auguste Piccard, who invented the modern balloon capsule — there was a personality clash and Mr Elson left Breitling soon after their crash landing last year.

His consolation in the present rivalry is that he left the Swiss team without the expertise to work his unique kerosene fuel system. The Breitling crew admits that Mr Elson's invention "offered an enormous advantage" but has been forced to switch back to the more conventional propane. This means that the Cable and Wireless team are carrying 25 days' fuel while Breitling has enough only for 21 days, because propane is heavier to store.



TV presenter is critical after police accident

By Michael Harvey

THE award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van.

The 44-year-old journalist suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked down just before midnight on Friday in Islington, North London, as the van was answering an emergency call.

Doctors at the University College Hospital in Euston said that Ms McDonald, a veteran presenter of *Channel 4 News*, *The World This Week* and BBC1's *On The Record*, remained in an intensive care unit.

Her family was last night maintaining a bedside vigil at the hospital. Despite her injuries, it is understood that there are no immediate plans for Ms McDonald to undergo surgery.

Ms McDonald began her career as a newsreader with BBC Radio Scotland. She spent eight years at Scottish Television before moving to London to begin work for Channel 4.

Stuart Cosgrove, the Scottish-based head of programmes at Channel 4, said yesterday: "Sheena is a great stalwart of Channel 4 and an important broadcaster. All our thoughts are with her and we hope she makes a speedy recovery."

Yesterday Alan Little, Ms McDonald's boyfriend, joined her family at the hospital after flying in from Moscow, where he is the BBC's correspondent. Mr Little, a former war reporter who has won awards for his coverage of the Gulf War and the war in Bosnia, has been with Ms McDonald for four years.

Gordon Brown, who was romantically linked with Ms McDonald while they were at Edinburgh University in the 1970s and again in 1994, is also being kept informed of her condition. The Chancellor, who spent the weekend in Scotland with his fiancée, Sarah Macaulay, remains a close friend.

Reports emerged in 1994 that the pair were seeing each other again before Mr Brown began his relationship with Ms Macaulay, a public relations company executive, later that year.

Ms McDonald, who chaired the judging panel for the Orange Fiction Prize last year, was knocked down in St John's Street, Islington. The police van, which had its blue lights flashing and siren on, was answering an emergency call to a fight on nearby Holloway Road.

Scotland Yard said that the driver, a 27-year-old constable, had been suspended from driving and that an investigation launched as part of standard procedure.

Both the driver and his 30-year-old colleague were unhurt.

□ Thirty-eight people, including six police officers, died in accidents involving police vehicles in London over the six years to 1998. During the year 1997/98 there were 5,710 police accidents. Police officers were found to be at least partially at fault in more than 2000 of them.

McDonald: suffered severe head injuries



A young *Carry On* fan admiring a poster of Kenneth Williams. His one-time co-star, Patsy Rowlands, said that the films "didn't have a deep meaning"

New generation falls for Carry On classics

By Hannah Betts

A NEW generation is rebelling against new Labour's prissy nanny state by crying "Oooh, Matron!" and embracing the 31 politically incorrect films of the *Carry On* canon.

The academic Andy Medhurst told a conference at the National Film Theatre — a London venue better known for screening the classic films of Andrei Tarkovsky, Krzysztof Kieślowski and Akira Kurosawa — that the comedy classics had found themselves a new audience.

"In Blair's Britain we're always being told to be decent upstanding citizens," said Dr Medhurst, a senior lecturer in media studies at Sussex University. "It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'Sod that. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh'.

"What used to be the preserve of a working-class audience has acquired a cult status with a young, mainly middle-class, clientele.

"In the 1960s middle-class youth held the films in contempt. On a Saturday night they'd all be off to the Hampstead Everyman to see the new Antonioni. Now there's been a post-modern shift and suddenly *Carry Ons* have what we might call cultural capital."

Dr Medhurst was joined on stage by the *Carry On* actress Patsy Rowlands and photography director Alan Hume. Both said that their new fans look for too much meaning in the films. "Students do read so many things into it," said Ms Rowlands. "I get letters asking 'What were you thinking when you said that line?' The truth is I was probably thinking about what I'd be picking up from Sainsburys on the way home. It didn't have a deep meaning."

But Andrew Spearman, 25, defended fans of his generation. "I don't think it's something we take too seriously. It's just a bit of fun — a Sunday afternoon thing that we all grew up with. There is an element of ironic appreciation, of course, but I wouldn't say it's the main factor."

□ In May, Pinewood studios will cash in on the trend with its first official Carry On Day — a *Carry On*-style event involving coach parties and a buffet lunch.

Advertisers not amused by sitcom's failure

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

ITV's efforts to attract the viewers with a comedy based on a successful American series have failed to impress public and critics alike. *Days like These*, which it had been hoped would end ITV's reputation for mediocre sitcoms, may now be scrapped.

Based on the top-ranking American series *That 70s Show*, it was made under the auspices of the US team Carsey-Werner, producers of *Roseanne*. It is set in 1976 and centres on a group of teenagers trying to circumvent the authority of their parents. In the American version they live in Wisconsin; in the British version, Luton. But critics say the concept does not work on this side of the Atlantic.

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, commissioned an initial 12 episodes with an option for ten more. However, it is now likely that the second batch will be cancelled and sources say the series may even be dropped before the end of its current run.

Pressure is building on ITV executives, as advertisers were promised the show would win audiences of up to 10 million. Instead, fewer than six million people have tuned in.

The show, shown on Friday evenings, is so far absent from ITV's schedule for March 12 — when BBC1 broadcasts *Comic Relief*. Insiders say executives fear its ratings may collapse when it is pitted against the popular fundraiser, and an edition of *You've Been Framed!* is to be shown instead.

An ITV source said: "It's difficult to see how it can last at this rate. The figures have dropped as low as four million at some points in the programme and the advertisers are not going to stand for that. In commercial television you have to deliver the goods but so far *Days Like These* has failed to do that."

It is not the first time that attempts to anglicise an American show have failed, although the idea has worked well in the opposite direction.

£500,000 for first 2000 slot

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

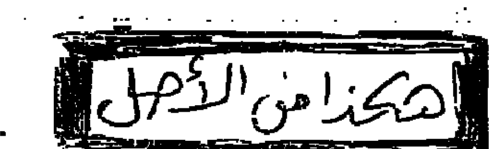
COMPANIES bidding to become the last television advertiser in this millennium and the first in the next could have to pay up to £1 million for the privilege.

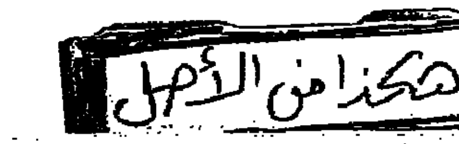
Experts predict that a 30-second national slot either side of midnight could cost more than £500,000, compared with a usual peak-time rate of £100,000.

One advertiser, Abbey National, is known to have approached ITV stations three years ago to buy up the first-in-2000 slot. Another contender for the opening commercial is Whitehall's publicity machine, the Central Office of Information.

Granada Media Sales, which handles advertising for five ITV areas, has been approached by about a dozen companies interested in securing advertisements.

Jo Brinkman, publicity officer, said: "A lot of people turn on their TVs to see Big Ben chime in the New Year and there is a certain amount of kudos about being first in 2000. We obviously want to maximise revenue as well as being fair."




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Hague to seek ways of saving the pound

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE hardened the Conservative Party's anti-euro stance yesterday by announcing a policy commission to investigate keeping the pound and withdrawing from cross-party preparations for the single currency.

He warned senior Tories to campaign for the party's candidates rather than members of the new Pro-Euro Conservative Party in the forthcoming European elections. Under pressure because of poor poll ratings and further signs of Tory divisions on the issue, Mr Hague declared that anyone failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear".

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have not denied reports that they met Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in advance of last week's publication of the National Changeover Plan for the euro. It is unlikely, however, that they would back non-official candidates.

Mr Hague's announcement of a policy commission, expected to be headed by a former Cabinet minister and containing economists and City experts, showed that he is ready to put himself at the head of the anti-euro campaign.

He said that the commission would assess how Britain could take fullest advantage of its own currency. "I'm going to make sure that the facts and the information and the debate is there, to make sure people really do have a choice."

He added in a reference to today's introduction of the New Europe group: "Other people in other parties, like David Owen, are going to join me in making sure that the country has a choice. I'm very happy to be on that side of the argument, so let battle commence."

Mr Hague said the Conservatives would withdraw from the cross-party committee that will oversee the National Changeover Plan examining how the euro could replace the pound, announced by Mr Blair last Tuesday. "The nature of that committee has changed. It is now to prepare for the introduction of the euro in Britain and to do so without having sought the consent of the voters ... I think that is wrong," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.

David Davis, who until yesterday was the Tory member on the committee, said that it was about little more than trying to convince the public that the euro was inevitable.

"The Government should not attempt to pre-empt the decision of the British people," he said. "It is constitutionally unsound and democratically improper. It is now clear that the Government's intention is that the pound is to perish. I will have no part of this."

☐ The Pro-Euro Conservative Party said that it would field at least five candidates in the summer's European elections. Its leaders John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly will be joined by two more former Tory MEPs, Paul Howell, who represented Norfolk for 15 years until 1994, and Andrew Pearce, Member for Cheshire West and Wirral for ten years until 1989; and a former journalist, Richard Bassett. Mr Pearce resigned from the Conservative list of candidates for the North West to join the new party. Mr Stevens said: "We are announcing our decision to stand as candidates in this year's European elections to assure Conservative voters that they will have a choice in June between the Euroscepticism offered by William Hague's candidates and a positive attitude towards Europe, in particular towards the euro."

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

TRADING PLACES



Lord Owen, once backed by Lord Sainsbury of Turville, left, is now supported by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover

Trouble is in store as euro splits the Sainsbury family

Minister will not be happy that cousin backs New Europe, writes Philip Webster

THE emergence today of New Europe, the group opposed to Britain joining the single currency, confirms the political split in one of Britain's richest families.

One of the financial backers of the campaign is Lord (John) Sainsbury of Preston Candover, cousin of Lord (David) Sainsbury of Turville, the Science Minister, who gave up the post of chairman of the supermarket giant last year, having taken over from his older cousin John. When he joined Tony Blair's Government, the 391-store group was left without a Sainsbury family member for the first time in its 129-year history.

The dynasty has long been associated with politics. John's brother, Sir Tim Sainsbury, was a minister in the previous Tory Government; Sir Tim's son-in-law is Shaun Woodward, Conservative MP for Witney, and a former Tory spin doctor.

But for David Sainsbury the birth of New Europe, under Lord Owen, may be an unhappy event. He, after all, is a close friend of David Owen and helped to bankroll the Social Democratic Party in its early days; pro-Europeanism was one of the party's guiding policies.

With the demise of the SDP and Labour's shift to electability, David Sainsbury became close to Mr Blair, gave large sums to the Labour Party, and ended up in the Government, in which he serves as an enthusiastic Europhile.

His political rift with his cousin will surprise few observers of the retail trade. The word has long been that they do not get on. John Sainsbury, a senior executive for a lengthy period during which it overtook Marks & Spencer as Britain's most profitable retailer, has been said to be a hard-headed autocrat. He was known for pacing his stores, checking that the produce was fresh, the cans stacked properly, and living the maxim he inherited from his father: "Retail is detail."

David, by contrast, was always regarded as quiet, thoughtful and approachable. He was quoted at the time of his succession as saying of his cousin: "He loses his temper and I don't."

David's father, Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane, the grandson of the founders of the chain, died last year at the age of 96. He too was involved in politics, standing as a Liberal candidate, joining Labour and then the SDP.

The Sainsburys are proud of their record of supporting political initiatives. Their tastes are various. Last year a one-off edition of *Marxism Today* thanked "James Sainbury for his very generous donation." James is the son of Sir Tim. His sister Camilla is married to Mr Woodward.

THE OPPOSITION

Democracy Movement
The multimillionaire businessman Paul Sykes formed movement from embers of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and is chairman. At "Democracy Day" this month supporters will be asked to "give a pound to save the pound".

Business for Sterling
Heavyweight organisation that will marshal anti-euro forces in City and business worlds. Cross-party, fronted by Lord Marsh.

Global Britain
Think-tank with uncompromising anti-European attitude, founded last year by the Tory peer Lord Pearson of Rannoch. Believes in complete withdrawal from Europe.

Bruges Group
Created to support philosophy of stridently anti-Brussels speech that Baroness Thatcher delivered in Bruges in 1988.

Conservatives Against a Federal Europe
Pressure group backed by MPs such as Teresa Gorman who defied John Major and were excluded from Tory ranks in Parliament.

European Foundation
Run by the backbench Tory MP Bill Cash. Publishes monthly magazine, *European Journal*.

European Research Group
Chaired by Sir Michael Spicer, focuses on mobilising political opposition to euro. Began life as organisation to bring together Eurosceptic right-wing MPs from other European countries.

Campaign for an Independent Britain
All-party organisation has roots in No Campaign set up during Common Market membership referendum. Run by Lord Stoddart of Swindon and Sir Richard Body, Tory backbencher.

UK Independence Party
Widely seen as busted flush since departure of its leader Alan Sked. Expected to reactivate for referendum.

Labour Euro-Safeguards Campaign
Principal Labour anti-EMU group. Dominated by old Labour figures such as Lord Shore of Stepney and Denzil Davies.

People's Europe
Labour organisation that represents left-wing case against euro.

Campaign Against Euro-Federalism
Operates within trade union movement and has regular publication, *The Democrat*.

Fringe groups
Anti-Common Market League. Anti-Maastricht Alliance. British Weights and Measures Association. Freedom Association. Save the Pound. Libertarian Alliance. Protect the Globe Locally. Save Britain's Fish. Sovereign Britain Action Group. British Housewives League.

THE SUPPORTERS

European Movement
Leading pro-European organisation will campaign hard for yes vote in referendum. The Labour MP Giles Radice is president; Ken Clarke, Neil Kinnock and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead vice-presidents.

Conservative Mainstream
[illegible] of pro-European wing of Tory party and umbrella organisation for four other organisations (listed below). Board chaired by Michael Heseltine; Lord Renton of Mount Harry is treasurer.

Tory Reform Group
One-nation [illegible] claims 1,000-plus members. Supports free market, [illegible] party's line on signing up for the single currency.

[illegible]
Members are pro-European Conservative MPs.

Conservative Group for Europe
Represents pro-European Tories at grass roots and is part of party's [illegible].

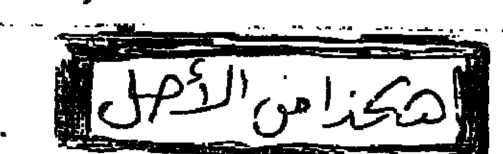
Action Centre for Europe
Fourth group under Conservative Mainstream, headed by Michael Welsh, [illegible] for top business leaders.

Positive European Group
Not formally part of Mainstream but will play key role in co-ordinating pro-European action at Westminster.

Labour Movement for Europe
Made up [illegible] of Labour MPs.

NEW EUROPE

Heavyweight politicians from all parties, industrialists and journalists combined in new group that proclaims its pro-Europeanism while opposing single currency. The former SDP leader Lord Owen is chairman, supported by Lords Healey and Prior. Business world represented by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover and Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays.



Border row is putting Rock out of business

Families on both sides say their livelihoods are under threat, reports Daniel McGrory

THE Spanish border guard amused his colleague with an animated joke, swapped cigarettes and slowly sipped his coffee as the line of vehicles waiting to leave Gibraltar stretched further than he could see.

At the front of the queue Edward Franks had been waiting five hours to cross the frontier into Spain. Usually this is a formality but the self-employed businessman said: "Spain appears to be at war with Gibraltar and nobody in Britain seems to have noticed."

When Mr Franks, 46, loses patience and asks the grinning guards to let him pass, they order his family out of the car. One guard takes out his penknife and jabs at the upholstery of the Franks' new Audi, looking for contraband and drugs. The other frisks Dany Franks, 7, who is forced to remove his jacket and put his hands in the air.

The search takes 20 minutes, during which the queue to leave the Rock grows stilll longer. Gibraltar officials weave between the cars encouraging drivers to complain and giving out the telephone numbers of the Spanish and British politicians whom they blame.

It began with a spat over fishing rights. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, thought that he had settled the problem with the Spanish fishing crews, but the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, complained that this was his and Robin Cook's job. A little local difficulty then escalated into a revival of the conflict over the near 300-year British sovereignty of the Rock, and Spain made a point by tightening up its border controls.

Across the wire fence of no man's land, Gerry Monteverde, a complaints officer, makes an unladylike gesture to the diminutive Spanish Civil Guard causing the worst of the hold-up. "They want to starve us into submission and we feel bullied by Madrid and betrayed by London. They accuse everyone in Gibraltar of being drug dealers and tobacco smugglers. But all that happens on the Spanish side of the frontier, not ours," she says.

She points to a group of women in wearing baggy tracksuits, who are busy hiding cartons of cigarettes inside their clothing until they look like the Michelin man. They waddle through the customs post, waved on by a Spanish guard, to the town of La Linea just 20 yards away.

There a man with slicked-back hair and wraparound sunglasses sits on a wall behind the customs shed, buying as many cartons of cigarettes as the women can carry. He offers bribes of pesetas to a coachload of elderly Britons to join his smuggling run. Several stroll back across to the border kiosk where a packet of 20 costs less than 80p. Three minutes walk away, in Spain, it sells for more than £2.

Ms Monteverde says: "The Spanish guards ignore such flagrant smuggling and instead delay law-abiding workers and tourists on their Government's orders."

The procession of cigarette women continues night and day. More than 1,000 families in La Linea are said to rely on this cigarette smuggling for their only income.

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work on the Rock and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions threaten their livelihood. Francisco Manueles, a computer engineer, says he missed three appointments because of the delays. "My Government is costing me money, and my Gibraltar customers will use someone on the Rock if this goes on."



A wait of four hours is common at the border, where Spanish guards conduct exhaustive checks on all travellers

Thirty people a week from La Linea are said to be losing their jobs in Gibraltar and many are having pay docked for arriving late. They are planning a demonstration on Wednesday which could bring the border to a standstill.

The Rock is suffering, too. Shops are deserted, offices close early and the 147 bars packed onto the 2½ square miles complain that daytrippers are staying away in their thousands. Fuming in the frontier traffic jam, Alfred Duo, 72, can take no more. "I was born here, but I'm leaving Gibraltar for good because of the bloodymindedness of my Spanish neighbours, which is getting worse."

There is no shooting in this border skirmish, just obstructive pettiness. Drivers who do not carry a blanket in the boot in case of an accident, as required by Spanish law, may be turned back after waiting hours. Back in the traffic jam, Ms Monteverde points to where the Gibraltar authorities installed cameras last week to broadcast the Spanish petulance live on the Internet.

Hours later the Spanish retaliated by stringing a 20ft sheet of green canvas between two trees to block the cameras. They plan a more permanent barrier made of aluminium.

"The Berlin Wall has gone but on this frontier of the new free Europe we will have the Aluminium Blockade," says Charles Collinson, the chief complaints officer, as drivers ask the reason for the delay.

One enterprising tour guide tried to profit from the dispute yesterday. He went across the border to tempt tourists on the Costas to come to photograph the Rock's latest attraction — "stroppy Spanish cops causing Europe's worst traffic jam". They were ferried back and forth on motorscooters to beat the queue that Gibraltarians fear is without end.







Gibraltar officials set up cameras to broadcast the source of the obstruction on the internet, but the Spanish threw up a canvas screen. One business not affected by the dispute is the cross-border trade in cigarettes

Minister urges Blair to get tough with Spain

By Daniel McGrory

THE Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, last night urged Tony Blair to "get tough" with Spain over the border blockade.

Mr Blair has arranged an Anglo-Spanish summit for April, but Mr Caruana said the Rock could not wait that long. "Tourism is already down to 20 per cent of what it should be. Who is going to come for a day trip from Spain when it can take seven hours to get across the border?"

"The integrity of our financial centre is being slurred by allegations that we are money launderers ... the Foreign Office has applauded our stringent banking and financial laws, but this mud from Spain might stick."

The language on both sides of the border is far from diplomatic. Mr Caruana blames the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, who he says is "a liar, a hypocrite and an economic illiterate".

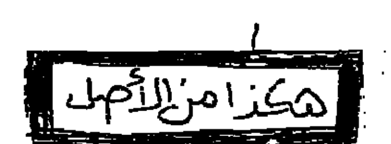
"He says we are parasites who should be eliminated. Language like that hasn't been used in Europe sinceNazi Germany."

The dispute concerns proposals sent to Whitehall by Señor Matutes in December 1997 for a new sovereignty deal.

"There was a threat implied from Señor Matutes that if we didn't accept what he thought were very generous sovereignty proposals, there would be an aggressive campaign to bring us to our knees," Mr Caruana said. "I don't lose a minute's sleep thinking Tony Blair is going to give away Gibraltar but perhaps Señor Matutes thinks differently, so the Prime Minister should spell it out: 'We stay British'."



http://frontier.gibnet.gi Website of the Gibraltar Frontier showing four-lane traffic and pedestrians queueing to get into Spain
http://www.gibraltar.gi/ The Gibraltar homepage with links to the Gibraltar Tourist Board, Finance Centre and Port
http://www.self-determination.gi/ The website of the Self-determination for Gibraltar Campaign



Caught in the conservation net

Efforts to save spring salmon include a ban on coraclemen, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

JAY WILLIAMS

Mike Elias carrying his coracle along the River Tywi in South Wales. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river," he said.

THERE is one species more endangered than the occasional spring salmon that makes a daring foray up the River Tywi in South Wales.

The coracle fishermen, who for generations have plied the river in their tiny cockle-shell boats, are the unintended victims of well-meaning but probably futile attempts to save the salmon. Just a dozen of the fishermen — largely nocturnal creatures — are left on the Tywi, compared with more than 300 at the turn of the century. Their main catch is the plentiful sea trout, but as their nets could also entangle the early salmon they have been caught in a nationwide ban.

The fishing season will start today, but no one knows how long it will last. The Environment Agency wants to stop salmon fishing until June 1 to give stocks time to recover. As soon as Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, signs the new bylaws, the coracle men will have to hang up their nets. With their season cut to two months and no hope of recouping the cost of their £400 annual fishing licence, a 2,000-year-old way of life will end.

Last week, Mike Elias, the leader of Wales's last 25 licensed coracle fishermen, carried his tiny boat down to the Tywi for what he fears may be one of the last times. Mr Elias, 48, has been fishing the river since he was 12, as the men in his family have done for generations. By day he is an electrician, but every night during the season he is on the river.

Anglers don't like the coraclemen because they fish commercially, and the Environment Agency regards them as an economically irrelevant anachronism. Mr Elias's contention that the tradition is a part of Welsh heritage that should be preserved fell on unsympathetic ears — the agency says that as the coraclemen fish at night there is little chance of tourists seeing them.

The agency also objects to the fibreglass coracles favoured by some fishermen since a dam was built on the Tywi near Llandovery in 1968, lowering the level of the river and making it easier to run aground, and it says that their economic benefit to the region is insignificant. The agency does concede that there are very few early-run salmon in the Tywi — Mr Elias says that the coraclemen caught just five salmon last year, all of them summer fish.

The chain through which the ancient skills are handed down from one generation to the next is already being broken. Peter Hopkins has refused all entreaties from his 15-year-old-son, Christopher, to teach him how to fish.

"I was born on the quayside in Carmarthen with my finger in the river," he said. "The Tywi runs through my blood. I don't want this to get into my son like it has got into me and then to have it taken away from him."

The agency issues just 12 licences for the Tywi, 12 for the Teifi and one for the Taf. Most of the coraclemen have day jobs and fish at night for catches that, if they are lucky, will just cover their expenses.

"I work during the day in order to be able to fish. No one could make a living out of it any more," Mr Elias said. "I remember when I used to go out with the old man and we would carry home 50 pounds of fish. Today you are doing very well if you catch ten pounds."

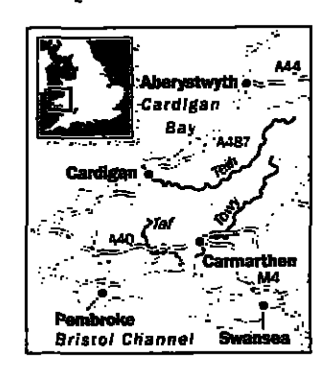
The coraclemen work in pairs, drifting downriver with their net strung out between them. At the end of each run they carry their coracles and their catch back to their starting point and begin again. It is not unusual for them to walk 20 miles in a night with the lightweight boats strapped to their backs. Mr Elias never wears a lifejacket, despite the fact that his coracle is no bigger than a bathtub and made only of pitch-covered calico and split hazel. He can't swim, but years of experience have given him perfect balance.

"That's the way it's always been in my family. The old-timers used to tie the young ones to the seat of the coracle with a couple of feet of rope so if it turned over they knew where to find them," he said.

What particularly galls the fishermen is that the National Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency's predecessor was partly responsible for the dam that played a major part in the Tywi salmon's decline. The efforts of fish that manage to pass the dam and reach their spawning ground are wasted because runoff from conifer plantations has made the water too acidic for the fry to survive.

Last week's practice paddle could be the closest that Mr Elias gets to the river this season as he missed the January 1 licence application deadline.

"It is bureaucracy at its best," he said. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river — and probably for long before that."



Letting fish off the hook puts hoteliers in fear

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

HOTELS renowned for salmon fishing are bracing themselves for "substantial losses" this season with the arrival of rules requiring anglers to throw fish back.

The Environment Agency is proposing bylaws on English and Welsh rivers to conserve stock by banning live bait and making it mandatory to throw back fish migrating to spawning grounds until June 16.

As the season started today on some of the great salmon rivers, such as the Torridge and Torr in Devon, the proposals were awaiting the attention of ministers, who are expected to confirm them soon.

Hoteliers on prime fishing rivers claim that the rules, which rob anglers of the thrill of hooking and eating a prized fish, will cause many regulars to forsake Britain for salmon-fishing holidays abroad. Countries such as Chile, Argentina and Norway are being heavily promoted as alternatives.

Up to a 100 hotels and their staff are likely to be affected by the bylaws. Philippa Hughes, who runs the Holme Chase Hotel on Dartmoor, said yesterday that the proposals were already putting fishermen off. "About 30 per cent of our business is during the fishing season, from May through to August," she said. At weekends, eight or nine of the hotel's 17 bedrooms would be occupied by anglers.

"The indications are that this could be halved," Mrs Hughes said. Losses could amount to "tens of thousands of pounds".

Charles Inniss, who owns the Half Moon Inn at Sheepwash, Devon, and ten miles of the Torridge, said that the plans were a catastrophe. "My season starts on March 1 and bookings are way, way down."

Mr Inniss, who is chairman of the local fisheries association, the Tor-Torridge Joint Consultative Committee, said that what angered it was the blanket way in which the Environment Agency had drawn up rules for all rivers irrespective of their different seasons and runs of fish. "We estimate they are taking away 60 per cent of our catch."

He said there were voluntary conservation rules on the Torridge, including a maximum catch of two fish per angler for part of the season.

Guy Mawle, fisheries officer at the Environment Agency, said that the proposals were confidential. Ministers could back them, reject them or call for a public inquiry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Income not the figure that counts

Two thirds of the women who have breast enlargement or reduction, at a cost of up to £5,000, earn less than £25,000 a year, according to a survey by a cosmetic surgery group.

The Harley Medical Group said: "Cosmetic surgery is not these days for the frivolously rich and lavishly vain." The women wanted to look more "statistically normal" and to have figures that were in proportion, so that it was easier for them to find clothes in high-street stores that fitted. Most took some years to decide whether to have surgery.

School drug trip

Berkshire schoolchildren are to visit cannabis cafés in Amsterdam's red-light district as part of an education project to prevent drug abuse. The scheme, organised by Thames Valley Police, has angered some parents and teachers.

Oasis on Mars

Evidence of the whereabouts of water-bearing minerals on Mars has been found by astronomers using the Hubble space telescope. Regions containing rusted iron minerals such as haematite have also been located.

Victim named

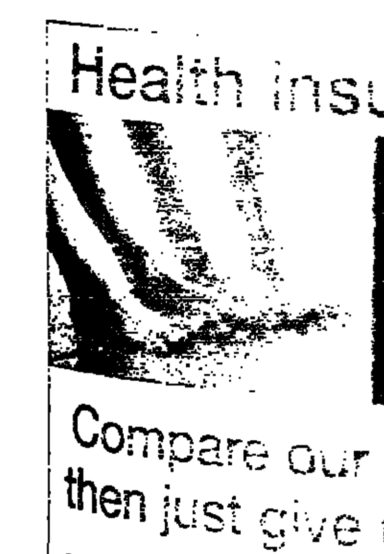
A teenager whose body was found by a policeman in Northampton on Saturday has been named as Andrew Boyce, 18. Police disclosed that he had been beaten to death in his bedsit, and his body dragged out and dumped on waste ground.

Tubby triumph

The BBC has commissioned 105 more episodes of *Teletubbies*. Filming by Ragdoll Productions will begin in the spring at the company's outdoor set in Warwickshire for programmes that will be broadcast over three years.

Toad safety

A road in the Nottinghamshire village of Oxton will be closed for a month from today to let thousands of common toads cross safely from hibernation sites to breeding ponds. A third of the toads have been killed in previous years.



Israelis hit back as top general in Lebanon killed

From Nicholas Blanford in Beirut

ISRAELI warplanes last night bombarded Hezbollah militia positions at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon after Israel's senior commander in south Lebanon was killed along with three others by a roadside bomb near the village of Kawkaba in the border zone occupied by the Jewish state.

Hezbollah guerrillas as well as Lebanese and Syrian troops retaliated with anti-aircraft fire, reports said. Israel was also bombarded from Lebanon by either rockets or mortars, military officials said.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, fighting an election battle dominated by security issues, ordered the attack in retaliation for the death of Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein.

General Gerstein, 38, was the most senior Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since the 1982 invasion. His death, coming less than a week after three officers from an elite Israeli commando unit were killed in a Hezbollah ambush, has added to the climate of uncertainty in Lebanon during the period preceding the elections in May. Seven Israelis have been killed in the occupation zone this year. Last year, 24 Israeli soldiers died and 100 were wounded.

Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim group which spearheads efforts to oust the Israeli Army from the occupation zone, claimed responsibility for the latest ambush. "This operation confirms our determination to continue our struggle until we have liberated our land," Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, said.

General Gerstein, two other soldiers and an Israeli journalist were killed when their convoy was targeted by the bomb ten miles north of the frontier with Israel. The general's car was destroyed.

Just 25 minutes later, Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a second bomb along the same stretch of road as an Israeli military vehicle passed. The occupants were reported unhurt.

General Gerstein's death was greeted by jubilation among the Lebanese, but it renewed fears that Mr Netanyahu will repeat the actions of his predecessor, Shimon Peres, by unleashing a military offensive against Hezbollah to garner votes from the security-conscious Israeli public.

In the run-up to the 1996 elections, Mr Peres launched the 16-day Grapes of Wrath air and artillery offensive in which 170 Lebanese civilians were killed.

ALI JAREKJI / REUTERS



Binyamin Netanyahu on his arrival at Jordan's Royal Palace in Amman yesterday

Netanyahu anger Jordan with 'ally of Saddam' claim

From Christopher Walker in Amman

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday struggled to defuse a serious crisis in relations with Jordan provoked by a speech in which he suggested that the Hashemite kingdom could again ally itself with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Mr Netanyahu's claim cast a shadow over his Amman talks yesterday with Jordan's new ruler, King Abdullah II — the first between the two since they spoke briefly at King Hussein's funeral. As Israeli officials mounted a damage control exercise after the speech provoked a furore in Jordan and among his political rivals in Israel, Mr Netanyahu tried to dismiss the dispute as a "storm in a teacup".

Hard-pressed Israeli diplomats denied that the King's refusal to appear at a joint press conference with the Israeli leader was a snub. One Israeli official said that yesterday's appearance of Mr Netanyahu with Fayez Tarawneh, the Jordanian Prime Minister, was "a matter purely of protocol and the fact that the King is still in the 40-day offic mourning period".

Jordanian anger was reflec ed by the *Jordan Time* which called Mr Netanyahu remarks a "gross misrepres tation of historical fact, der onstrating once again Neta yahu's complete lack of polit cal sophistication". The dai paper, one of Amman's mo moderate in its approach t the controversial 1994 Israel Jordan peace treaty, accuse him of "an inexcusable lack c consideration" towards Jo dan's mourning.

In the speech Mr Netany hu reminded an Israeli univer sity audience that the lat King had sided with Ira during the 1990 Gulf crisi and the war to oust Iraq troops from Kuwait launche in 1991.

Days earlier the new King had met the expected futur ruler of Syria, Bashar Assad the son of President Assad and a leading Jordanian oppo sition member, Leith Shube lat, had met Saddam. Both contacts were seen as omi nous by Western diplomats.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Italian 'prejudice' outrages lecturers

Rome: More than 1,000 British and other foreign lecturers who teach at Italian universities will today present European socialist leaders with evidence that Italy is "breaking European Union law" by discriminating against them "on grounds of nationality" (Richard Owen writes).

The lecturers are staging a two-day strike to coincide with a conference in Milan to co-ordinate campaign plans for the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. Those at the meeting will include Tony Blair, Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

Iraq says raid killed 3

Baghdad: Three Iraqis, including a child, were killed and several others were injured in US air raids on villages in the northern no-fly zone, an Iraqi military spokesman said. The US said in a statement earlier from Incirlik air base in Turkey that F15E fighter jets launched three air-to-ground missiles and dropped three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defence headquarters and radio relay site in the zone. *(AFP)*

Lusaka hit by blasts

Johannesburg: Zambia deployed police and troops in Lusaka after six bombs exploded in and around the capital. A guard was killed by the blast at the Angolan Embassy. Bombs also exploded at the American International School and the headquarters of the electricity suppliers. "We are treating this as a security crisis," Vincent Malambo, Legal Affairs Minister, said. *(Reuters)*

Yeltsin back in hospital

Moscow: President Yeltsin was taken to hospital over the weekend in what has become a routine occurrence (Anna Blundy writes). The ulcer that first incapacitated him in January is still bleeding, apparently because of too much activity by the President, and his doctor has recommended hospital observation and a decrease in Mr Yeltsin's already much-depleted workload.



Nigeria poll rigged, claims loser



Noor: beat up Anwar "under provocation"

Chief of police admits assault

By David Watts

MALAYSIA'S former police chief admitted through his lawyer at the inquiry yesterday into Anwar Ibrahim's injuries that he had beaten up the former Deputy Prime Minister.

The inquiry was told that Abdul Rahim Noor had "lost his cool" after Mr Anwar accused him of being the "father of all dogs" and attacked him.

The admission of the assault is another blow to the reputation of the Mahathir Government and its officers, and Mr Anwar's accusation of a conspiracy against him is gaining credibility among more and more Malaysians.

Teh Poh Teik, Mr Noor's lawyer, said the former police chief had acted under great provocation. However, Mr Anwar denied giving any insult and said there had been no conversation between himself and the two officers who came to his cell after he was detained last September 20.

He was speaking at an inquiry into allegations that he was beaten up after his arrest on charges of corruption and illegal sexual acts. The inquiry is being held separately from his trial on these charges.

Unusually, the hearing was held on a Sunday after the trial judge refused to adjourn hearings so that he might attend the inquiry.

Observers say Obasanjo victory should stand despite cheating, Sam Kiley reports from Lagos

NIGERIA'S fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy was in jeopardy yesterday after Olu Falae refused to accept the victory of his opponent for the presidency. General Olusegun Obasanjo, amid widespread allegation of vote rigging.

Senior members of Mr Falae's All People's Party (APP) stormed out of the electoral commission offices and refused to continue participation in the counting process.

The 1993 elections, which were won by Chief Moshood Abiola, were annulled by the then military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida who used squabbling between politicians as an excuse to stay in office himself. Results from 31 of the 36 states yesterday showed a lead for General Obasanjo of more than five million votes.

"I said if General Obasanjo won a free and fair election I would congratulate him but clearly this is not a free and fair election," Mr Falae said in his home town of Akure.

"The vote was completely rigged," one of Mr Falae's aides said. "We have not had free and fair elections and Falae will contest this."

True to form, many Nigerians could not resist the temptation to rig their own elections. Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and many other international observers across the county reported widespread irregularities.

However, European Union monitors said the results were in line with the will of the Nigerian people, despite widespread fraud.

"We judge that the result of the election reflects the wishes of the Nigerian people, marking the final and most important electoral stage in the transfer of power to a democratically elected civilian government," the EU monitors said in a statement.

However, the level of cheating appeared to be equally balanced between General Obasanjo's supporters and those of Mr Falae.

International approval for the elections is essential to Nigeria which had been economically crippled by 28 years of corrupt military rule out of the 38 since independence from Britain.

Mainly Western donors have prepared a $1.5 billion (£900 million) rescue package for the world's sixth-largest oil producer which is unable to refine enough of its high-grade crude for domestic use because the military has deliberately run down refineries and profited from imported products.

Fuel queues lasting for days choke Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. In Abuja, the newly-built inland capital, senior civil servants have to buy their petrol on the black market.

General Obasanjo has pledged to "make Nigeria great again" but he faces a Herculean task in ridding the country of corruption and attracting new investment.

General Obasanjo, 61, a Baptist, did best in the north of the country where the mainly Muslim Hausa-Fulani tribes have traditionally feared a power shift to the South, the general's Yoruba heartland, where he polled the least votes. Mr Falae is also a Yoruba.

The choice of both men as contestants for Nigeria's ultimate political prize was regarded as a means to reduce tensions between the north and south.

The general has two months to form a Cabinet before being sworn in by the outgoing military leader, General Abdusalaam Abubakar, on May 29.

He said that his priorities would be to stamp out corruption and bring economic growth to Nigeria. But Nigerians have heard it all before.

Picking through rubbish in Lagos, Ben Oluwolale, a beggar, shrugged his shoulders.

"What will democracy ever mean to me? I am nothing, we Nigerians are nothing to our leaders," he said.



SUPRI / REUTERS

Refugees in Ambon scramble on to a Jakarta-bound vessel while, above left, Indonesian soldiers help a baby to board the ship

Refugees flee Indonesia island riots

Ambon: Some 1,300 people fled this riot-torn Indonesian city yesterday amid mounting tensions following the explosion of a homemade bomb late on Saturday.

A local journalist said there were no immediate reports of casualties in Saturday night's bomb explosion at the town of Ahuru. "Many houses, churches and mosques were burnt but we cannot confirm the numbers yet," he said.

Homemade explosives have been used frequently in recent clashes between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia's eastern spice islands. More than 160 people died in savage rioting in January and another flare-up has killed at least 24 in the past week.

Meanwhile, people jammed Ambon's port in an attempt to flee the city, which is 1,440 miles east of the capital. "There are about 1,300 people at Ambon's port rushing to board a ship heading for Jakarta," said a witness.

"I am scared of being killed. I am also worried for my family's safety," one man said.

Indonesia has been racked by waves of ethnic and religious unrest over the past year, fuelled by the country's worst economic crisis in 30 years. (Reuters)

Australia trims its fighting forces

From David Watts in Sydney

THE Australian Army is turfing out tubby troops who it says are too fat to fight. Under a policy to weed out weaklings, almost 700 officers and other ranks— some of them women — are packing their kitbags for civvy street.

They failed to meet the army's requirement that they must be able to run 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes; pass a shooting test every year; be ready to travel overseas within 30 days and be medically fit with a good set of teeth.

In the first year of the new rules, five officers and 42 soldiers were shown the door. Another 40 officers, including five senior lieutenant-colonels and 607 other ranks, have been given notice of discharge.

The revelation comes in the week Australia lost one of the few remaining legendary diggers who created the army's reputation at Gallipoli, a reputation for toughness reinforced in Vietnam but which appears to have slipped despite involvement in more post-Second World War conflicts than Britain.



Ethiopia claims victory in border dispute

هكذا من الأصل

Ethiopia claims victory in border dispute

From James Bone in New York

THE United Nations Security Council called at the weekend for an immediate halt to the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea amid fears that the newly landlocked Ethiopians would try to reclaim Red Sea ports ceded to their smaller neighbour when it gained independence in 1993.

The Ethiopian Government declared "total victory" yesterday in the eight-month border conflict, after its troops recaptured the disputed 120-square-mile Badme plain. Eritrea said, however, that there was a fresh Ethiopian assault along the 60-mile front and UN officials expressed concern that Ethiopia might try to press on to the coast.

The rulers of the two countries were long-time allies in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, whom they ousted in 1991. When Eritrea gained independence two years later, the two states were hailed as leaders of an "African Renaissance". A bitter rivalry developed, however, when Eritrea established its own currency, the nafka, in 1997 to replace the Ethiopian birr.

The deterioration in relations meant that Ethiopia was no longer able to trade through its former ports of Massawa and Assab, rendering it dependent on neighbouring Djibouti for access to the Red Sea. A full-scale war broke out last May when Eritrea seized Badme, an area on the border which was populated by ethnic Eritreans but under Ethiopian administration and was not demarcated.

Shuttle diplomacy by envoys from the United States and the UN failed to defuse the conflict, as Eritrea rejected a peace plan put forward by the Organisation of African Unity calling for its withdrawal. Ethiopia's crushing victory on Friday prompted Eritrea to reverse course and hurriedly accept the OAU plan in what diplomats took as a sign that the Eritrean Government feared that Ethiopia would seize more land.

Albright talks tough as China relations sour

By James Pringle and Ian Brodie

WITH tensions mounting in Sino-American relations, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Chinese hosts will engage in tough talking today, setting the scene for next month's first official visit to Washington of Zhu Rongji, China's Prime Minister.

Fresh from her failure to push through a Kosovo agreement, Ms Albright acknowledged to a congressional committee, before leaving for two days in Beijing where she arrived last night, that "sharp differences" have emerged with China since the high water mark of President Clinton's visit eight months ago. Indeed, that deteriorating relationship is considered a prime reason why Mr Clinton has been unable to find a high-profile replacement Ambassador for Beijing when James Sasser leaves in May.

"Let me stress," said Ms Albright, in defence of Washington policy, "that in our dealings with China, engagement is not endorsement". There is supposed to be a "strategic partnership" between the two nations, but this fuzzy phrase cannot disguise the triple blow that Washington delivered to China last week.

First there was the decision to deny the sale of a US-made satellite to China for a mobile phone network that, according to the Pentagon, would also have helped the Chinese to make their intercontinental missiles more accurate. The second was a Pentagon report on China's missile build-up opposite Taiwan, and the third, a stiff rebuke to China over its human rights record.

The State Department's annual report — which angered the Chinese — described crackdowns against organised political opposition and accused China of extra-judicial killings, torture and maltreatment of prisoners, forced confessions and arbitrary arrests.



Ms Albright is met by Lu Xumin, a Chinese official

To make matters worse, the crackdown on dissidents continued in the run-up to the Albright visit, prompting the Senate to call on the Administration, with a 99-0 vote on Thursday, to promote an anti-China resolution at this month's United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

The resolution underlined that the Administration is under enormous domestic pressure not to pull its punches on China, despite concerns at the damage such criticism can do to other US interests such as trade and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Non-government Chinese experts in Washington suspect that Mr Clinton and Ms Albright have left relations with Beijing on auto-pilot between visits, unaware that they were swerving off-course. There seems scant understanding that the end of the Cold War has made the Chinese more distrustful of America, especially those in power who remember that Henry Kissinger and his successors co-opted them to gang up on the Soviet Union. Using this argument, Chinese leaders can advance the notion that they are Washington's targets now.

Other issues loom large, including America's $57 billion trade deficit with Beijing; US plans to develop a missile defence system to protect its Asian allies; and Congressional allegations that China may have obtained access to US technology to improve missiles and nuclear weapons.



CHERIE DIEZ / REUTERS

The Rev Henry Lyons, flanked by his lawyers, listens to the guilty verdicts in his Florida fraud trial

Church leader fails to find a friend in Jesus

Ian Brodie in Washington on Baptist preacher found guilty of $4 million fraud

THE leader of America's largest black religious organisation, who used to punctuate his sermons on sin with cries of "I'm doing some preaching now", walked from court without a word after being found guilty of swindles running to millions of dollars.

Henry Lyons, 57, faces up to eight years in prison but he refused to resign as president of National Baptist Convention USA. Rather, said a defence lawyer, he was going home to pray at his church in St Petersburg, Florida, where he is still pastor.

The guilty verdict by the all-white jury in Largo, Florida, ended a career of sex, flamboyance and deceit conducted under the cloak of God's name.

Lyons was convicted of racketeering by helping himself to more than $4 million (£2.5 million) from corporations wanting to sell cemetery plots, life insurance and credit cards to his national membership, which he claimed to be 8.5 million strong. In fact, said the prosecution, it was closer to one million.

Bernice Edwards, 42, his organisation's public relations director and his suspected mistress, was cleared of racketeering.

It was the alleged affair that led to Lyons being caught. His enraged wife Deborah set fire to a luxurious waterfront home that he had bought with Ms Edwards.

The episode prompted a police investigation that uncovered an extravagant spending spree by Lyons, including a timeshare flat in Nevada, several luxury cars, expensive furs and a diamond ring "the size of a dime". He was alleged to have lavished gifts on several mistresses.

Meanwhile, Lyons was duping the companies seeking his membership list by sending them names from computerised telephone directories.

This scam led to letters being sent such non-Baptists as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a Catholic priest.

Lyons denied the charges throughout. Even as damning documentary evidence piled up, he and his lawyers constantly predicted that God would deliver him.

When the jury retired to consider its verdict, Lyons and Ms Edwards, who denied having an affair with him, joined hands with others outside the court to sing: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

A supporter, the Rev Charles Embery, led the group in prayer, asking God to help the jury come to the "right" verdict.

But after 12 hours of deliberation, the five women and one man said they found the evidence against Lyons compelling. And he still faces a federal trial on 54 counts of tax evasion, money laundering and extortion.

Voyeurs of the world braced for revelation of the full Monica

By Ian Brodie

THE week of the full Monica Lewinsky treatment opened yesterday with assorted leaks, including an admission that she ignored her mother's advice to end her affair with President Clinton.

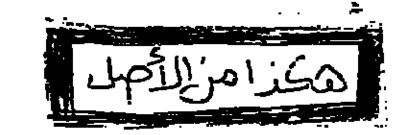
A well-orchestrated media blitz on both sides of the Atlantic will see Ms Lewinsky telling her side of the story on television, as well as the release of her book written with Andrew Morton, newspaper serialisations and more interviews. The first interview will be on Wednesday in America on ABC, when Ms Lewinsky will admit to Barbara Walters — and, the network hopes, an audience approaching Super Bowl proportions — that her relationship with Mr Clinton was an emotional roller coaster and that she became depressed as it disintegrated.

She was extremely fragile by the time Kenneth Starr's prosecutors found her, Ms Walters told *Newsweek*, and they "pushed her over the top", making her feel desperate. Earlier, Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, had tried to persuade her to end the relationship. Ms Lewinsky admits that her stubbornness kept her from heeding the advice.

Ms Lewinsky says she believes that, at the start of the affair, Mr Clinton was genuinely remorseful. Now, she says, the man she sees on television is all politician, sorry only that he got caught. Ms Lewinsky explains how prosecutors came to know about the infamous cigar escapade. She had described the incident to friends who were then called before the Grand Jury, so by the time she made her appearance the jurors knew all the salacious details.

Ms Lewinsky found that, of all the things written about her, comments about her weight hurt her the most. But she kept her sense of humour, repeating a joke about herself to Ms Walters that was considered too bawdy to broadcast.

Ms Lewinsky makes a public apology to the American people. Asked if she is still in love with the President, she says no, but there have been times when she feels "kind of warm" towards him.



Rebels mark birth of Balkan conflict

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN LIKOSANE, KOSOVO

A COMMEMORATIVE service on a mud-slick plateau outside the village of Likosane yesterday marked the first anniverary of the Kosovo war's bloody birth.

About 3,000 ethnic Albanians gathered beside the graves of 25 of their number slain there a year ago. Except for the continuous buzzing of a Serb observation plane flying overhead and the tedious speeches of Kosovo Liberation Army commanders competing with the whine of feedback from a faulty speaker system, the scene was strangely silent; the crowd, familiar now with the depredations of conflict, was subdued and seemingly drained of emotion.

The skies on February 28 last year were the same blue, the ground the same snow-scabbed mud of spring thaw. But war was alien then. So, as they went about their business that day nobody in Likosane, a farming community 25 miles north-west of Pristina, could have anticipated what was to befall them.

On the eastern side of the village, caught between fields and a track junction, grows a legendary oak tree. Two hundred years ago, according to the village elders, the shoots from six acorns entwined together as they grew.

As a sapling, the oak was protected from livestock by the villagers, who watched it grow over the years into six equal trunks from one root. The tree was known as the Six Brothers: the latest phase in the death of Yugoslavia — six republics previously linked by the brotherhood and unity of Tito-era communism — started beneath the Six Brothers.

Last year, when the KLA was little more than a myth, a group of armed guerrillas drove past the oak. As they did so, Serb police hiding in a farmhouse sprung an ambush. One of the KLA men, Sabit Lladrovci, was hit. His companion, Rasim Kecina, fired at a police vehicle with a machine-gun. Two policemen died. The war had started.

SERGEANT ADRIAN FIELDHOUSE (RAF)



A British Challenger tank with the King's Royal Hussars arrives in Krivolac, in Macedonia, as part of the proposed Nato peacekeeping force

Kosovo peace recedes as Serbs mass on border

Envoy calls for restraint as fears grow of plans to partition province, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

SERB forces massed in their thousands in and around Kosovo yesterday as the province was engulfed in new fighting that threatens to shatter the fragile peace process.

Western military advisers said there were now more troops in Kosovo than at any time last year, and feared that Belgrade might be about to partition the province.

Brian Donnelly, the British Ambassador to Belgrade, yesterday urged the Yugoslav Army and Serb police to rein in their forces.

Meeting Kosovo Liberation Army leaders at one of their central headquarters in the village of Ladrovac, Mr Donnelly said he hoped Belgrade could control the thousands of security troops now deployed around the province in breach of the October ceasefire rules.

The ethnic Albanians, he said, had to be given the chance to understand the Contact Group peace proposal.

But as his Range Rover ploughed through the snow and mud of the Drenica region there were reports of hostage-taking, attacks on police stations and Yugoslav Army units taking up positions along the southern and northern borders of the province.

"I can confirm fighting and shooting," said Beatrice Lacoste, a spokeswoman for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe observer mission in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Mr Donnelly met two of the Albanian delegates to the first peace conference at Rambouillet, Jakup Krasniqi, the KLA spokesman, and Ram Buja, the group's political adviser. Mr Krasniqi said the "will of the people had to be expressed". Mr Donnelly told them that an Albanian signature at the next phase of talks, on March 15 at Evreux in Normandy, would increase pressure on Belgrade to come to an agreement.

But Western military advisers and international monitors fear that Kosovo will be beyond salvation by March 15, and that the Contact Group's hopes for Nato to come into a "benign environment" are little more than a pipe dream.

"The planners are barking mad and I've told them so," said one of the most experienced advisers in the province. "The Yugoslav generals will have to fight." He described the new Yugoslav Army hierarchy as being almost entirely obedient to President Milosevic's wishes.

On Saturday French monitors counted 71 shells landing near the village of Bukos, which has now been besieged by the Yugoslav Army for five days in what Belgrade has cynically called "a winter exercise".

The special interior ministry police units that will have to leave Kosovo altogether under the Contact Group plan were also poised for action last night, as they joined the Yugoslav army in chasing the KLA and up to 3,000 new refugees south from the town of Kacinik, on the road south to Macedonia. Earlier the KLA had fired on the police station there, killing one officer and injuring four others.

The police were also preparing an offensive against KLA villages near the town of Orahovac, where two Serbs were kidnapped on Saturday. As British monitors persuaded the police to hold off their attack, two bodies were found dumped on the main road south of Orahovac. They were not thought to be those of the Serbs, whom the KLA hinted they were still holding.

Mr Donnelly warned that he suspected there "were still some quarters" in Belgrade where it was believed the KLA could be eliminated.

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Schröder's strategy fails the EU test

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Mountains, as we discovered last week, are dangerous. So too, are summits for untried politicians working with clumsy sherpas. Gerhard Schröder, in his first real test as a European leader, fumbled his way through a complicated brief at the informal EU summit last Friday and left people wondering whether he will ever quite gain the stature of Helmut Kohl.

The weekend reviews of the Chancellor's performance — in the German, British, French and Italian press — were poor, even if France and Spain were sometimes identified as the "real" problem. In Germany, the Chancellor's smiling appearance on prime-time talk and quiz shows was contrasted unfavourably with his uncertain touch with fellow European leaders.

I think that the Chancellor is being too harshly judged at home. It was never going to be easy to rule with the Greens, and his own Social Democrats have always been uneasy in power. Herr Schröder's skills, honed as Prime Minister of a Red-Green regional government in Lower Saxony, are tactical rather than strategic. He has led two great retreats in his first 100 days of government — edging away from Green plans to scrap nuclear waste recycling contracts, and showing himself responsive to public discontent about proposed changes to the nationality laws. Yet in both cases he managed to present his U-turns as a defeat for the Greens.

The Chancellor's technique, applied against his rival, Oskar Lafontaine, and the Green Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittan, is to let troublesome Cabinet ministers over-extend themselves and then suddenly take a quick step backwards. Public outcry is directed at the errant politicians while the Chancellor, whose popularity ratings remain high, is seen as the man who listens to the people.

The medium-term strategy is to shed the Greens as a partner and lead a grand coalition, either with the debilitated and suitably grateful Christian Democrats, or with the tiny Free Democrats. Rehearsal time has begun — the Government is having to deal with both parties since it has just lost its overall majority in the upper house, the Bundesrat.

Where, one might ask, is the meat in the sandwich? According to the official line, the theme of this Government is the war on unemployment. Cutting the number on the dole by half a million is the undeclared goal by the next election in 2002. The next governing term, preferably with a different partner, would be dedicated to the thorough-going modernisation of German society. There are still well over four million unemployed and little progress has been made since the general election last autumn. The Chancellor managed to bring employers and unions together last week for the first session of an "alliance for jobs". This demonstrated a Schröder strength — to bring warring sides together and act as a kind of anchor man.

The German leader took a similar approach to European policy and it was in this spirit that he chaired the summit high up in Petersberg overlooking the Rhine. After a day's hard slog on Agenda 2000, he understood at last that the tricks of domestic political management cannot be applied to the European Union.

It is still possible that some kind of European financing deal will be struck in Berlin at the end of this month. But the Chancellor needs to grasp some of the fundamentals. First, if Germany wants to play a leading role in Europe, it has to pay for it. Germany will always be the chief paymaster of Europe — that is the essence of its power; if it pays less (and makes a big issue out of paying less) its power will diminish accordingly. Second, it cannot have an open confrontation with France and win (at least off the battlefield).

Herr Kohl understood this and the primary task of his francophile sherpa, Joachim Bitterlich, was to find ways in which the French could privately surrender positions and yet not lose face. Herr Schröder's foreign policy adviser, Michael Steiner, has not yet mastered this technique.

New wave of skiers arrive as Tyrol mourns

FROM ROGER BOYES IN INNSBRUCK

CHURCH bells rang out the length and breadth of Austria yesterday as the country mourned the 38 victims of the worst Alpine avalanche for several decades. The coffins of the victims — the last, a 14-year-old German girl, was dug out of a wrecked cellar on Saturday — were lined up in the St Wilten monastery chapel outside Innsbruck.

Tears streaked the faces of relatives, many of whom survived the disaster as snow raced down the mountainside last week at speeds of up to 190 mph to engulf Galtür in the Tyrol. Others, such as the mother of two young boys killed in the avalanche, were too distraught to attend.



Relatives of victims at the Innsbruck service

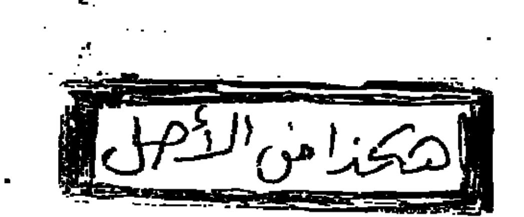
The service was attended by Viktor Klima, the Austrian Prime Minister, who declared yesterday a day of mourning, Manfred Stolpe, the Prime Minister of Brandenburg who was representing the 21 German victims, and Swiss government officials.

Several hundred tourists nevertheless arrived in the Tyrol yesterday, anxious to make use of the deep snow and empty pistes. The authorities who had cleared many of the main approach roads in western Austria at the weekend denied that they had done so to encourage new tourists. Hoteliers, most of them heavily in debt, had been anxious that nobody would want to come to the Paznaun valley.

The village of Galtür was opened at the weekend for the first time in a week and the full scope of the damage could be studied by reporters.

"We are still under shock," said the local innkeeper Siegmund Wolfhard, sobbing quietly as he made a bonfire of destroyed timber.

But four-year-old Alexander Walter, who was found under the snow almost two hours after being hit by the avalanche in Valzur, was yesterday said to be playing with toy helicopters in his hospital bed, on his way to a complete recovery.



Surrey's own Oskar Schindler

In a quiet corner of Guildford lives Henk Huffener, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Henk Huffener's house, off the Guildford-Dorking road, is not merely in the Surrey stockbroker belt — it is at its very buckle. He has lived here for 40 years, and although various artistic types have beaten a path to his door (his friends include sculptors, photographers and writers), no one in the village has taken much notice.

"If anything, people have ignored me," he says, in his clipped Dutch accent. "I'm foreign. I don't belong to the stockbrokers' club." And who would expect this 76-year-old man, with a wedge of grey hair sticking out beneath a bald pate, to have anything remarkable to say? But his neighbours have just received a jolt from the local papers. Huffener, it transpires, Has A Past. "I don't want to go out any more. It's ridiculous," he says, waving a hand irritably.

You might surmise from this that he is one of those benign old men who turns out to be a former Nazi. In fact, he is that more remarkable character, a hidden hero. From 1941 to 1945, Huffener saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives. He spied on German troop movements, helped to secure an escape route to Switzerland, evacuated a kibbutz and hid numerous families in safe houses, even finding a place for a girl with Down's syndrome. He was imprisoned in a slave labour camp, escaped, carried on.

Last month Huffener, a retired antiques dealer and qualified psychologist, travelled to the Israeli Embassy in London, accompanied by his wife Margaret and 50 friends and relatives. He became only the 13th British citizen to be honoured with Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among The Nations" award. He felt, he says, "virtual embarrassment" — the medal has joined his Dutch Resistance Cross, worn only twice, on a shelf in his cluttered basement.

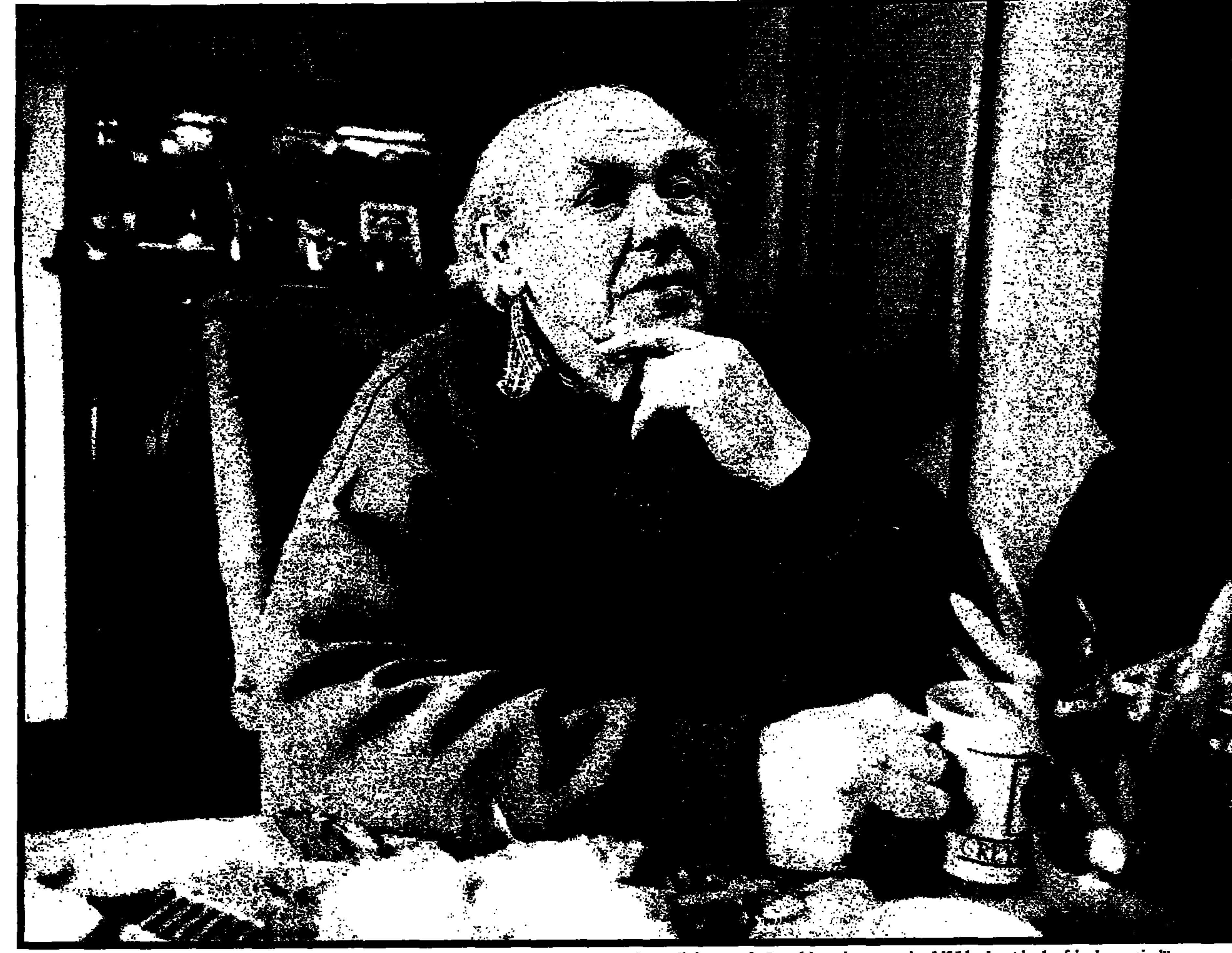
His story begins in 1941, in an isolated house in a wood outside Bildhoven. This was the home of the Huffeners — father (an engineer), stepmother and seven children. They were a cultured, sociable family. "We were right in the sticks. That's important — no one overlooked us." When Huffener's father began holding Resistance meetings at the house, there was no one to see. "My father was an incredibly kind, brave person. He never showed any anxiety at all."

The rest of his family seems to have inherited this temperament. Huffener's sister Ann looked after a safe house, about a mile from the family home, that was a crucial staging post on an escape route used to smuggle Allied pilots, diplomats and Jews, first to Switzerland, then to Spain. Huffener was involved in this work. His younger brother, Joep, made friends with a doctor who was transmitting messages to London, and Huffener provided the doctor with information about German troop movements. "I was 18 but I looked 14 and I'd chat to the soldiers. I'd be cheerful and gormless and say 'gosh, are you really going in that direction?'" The Germans eventually detected the doctor's aerial and stormed his house. "They caught him red-handed; he was taken away and shot. That was the end of my spying," says Huffener.

> 'You can't stay here: The baby will have to come with me'

Despite its grim conclusion, this was to be only the first of Henk's Resistance exploits. A friend of his, Paul Koning — later a successful sculptor — introduced Huffener to Loekie Metz, a young Jewish woman who was staying at a German Zionist kibbutz near Loosdrecht. "In March 1942 a tip came that they had less than a month to fold up the kibbutz and get out. The Germans were very fond of the idea of 'way folk', as they were then called — young people going up country, hikers and bikers." So Huffener and others would go unnoticed as they cycled through the countryside, accompanied by one or two members of the kibbutz. It was an audacious and dangerous mission. On one occasion he was stopped by German soldiers while escorting an obviously Jewish-looking girl who spoke no Dutch. He kissed her, explained to the Germans that they must be off or they would be in trouble with their parents, and got away with it.

The naivety of some of those he saved now seems extraordinary. Huffener visited the same girl's parents in a bleak Jewish district of Amsterdam. The father produced a black velvet cushion displaying a medal. "He said 'That is an Iron Cross First Class. I am exempted from deportation'. But I said 'Don't believe them'." His plea went unheeded.



Henk Huffener: "I have not suppressed the grim things but I don't want to relate them all that much. I could not have survived if I had not had a frivolous mind"

In all, 110,000 Jews registered with the Jewish Council and obeyed the instruction to move to the ghettos.

Those who went into hiding needed constant support. "In Anne Frank's story you never hear about the people who sustained them," Huffener points out. He became one of those people, moving about the country, never giving his full name, establishing a false address and carrying false papers.

In 1943 he was arrested while making a trip to Arnhem, where some of the kibbutz residents were hidden in a warehouse. He was charged with minor offences — not having an appropriate travel document and not having registered for work or study — and was questioned at Gestapo headquarters. He sat in the cells for two months. "I got very nervous because I thought somebody would twig. My last scene of crime, the warehouse, was only 300 yards away."

Finally he was sent to a slave labour camp in Germany, where he endured 16-hour shifts, inadequate food and poor sanitation. Through sheer resourcefulness, he talked his way first into a skilled job, then an office position, before wangling canteen lunches, wages and, ultimately, a leave permit.

He still has it — a piece of A5 paper, patterned like a driving licence, with the words "until further notice" audaciously typed by Huffener himself. There is a stamp from the local police station, where he endured a 20-minute wait before officials finally gave up trying to check his story.

He arrived back in Holland to discover that the SS had got hold of his name and had raided his father's home. He moved to Amsterdam and looked up a cousin whose husband was a land agent. Huffener was given access to empty properties and lived in one, hiding Jewish people in the others.

"I trotted around Amsterdam, very much a wanted person, and every time I'm stopped by the police, I say 'I've got this pass'. That paper saved my life right through to the end of the war."



Henk as a young man

Hendrik, Henk's father



The Huffener family's isolated home near Bildhoven

Huffener's most extraordinary achievement, perhaps, was to save an entire extended family. Before his imprisonment, while he was still in Arnhem, a friend approached him about an old couple who owned a soft-furnishings company. They had two daughters, one with Down's syndrome. Through his sister Ann, Huffener found a psychiatrist who would look after the girl in an institution. He took her across Holland first on the train, then on the back of his bike. "We sailed up the drive, the girl screeching with joy because she'd never had a ride on the back of a bike before."

Next he had to look after the couple's other daughter, who had moved to Arnhem with her husband. "I was told 'They are in a flat where they are not meant to be. The son-in-law is sitting on the balcony with a fag and a newspaper, and the neighbours have seen. They have a four-month-old baby screaming at night. It's a matter of a week or two and they will drag him out'."

He knew that he could hide the couple — but not with their baby. Through his sister, he found a foster home for the child. "I went to this couple and said 'You can't stay here. I'm asking you to let the baby come with me'. It was a very tearful scene." Finally, they agreed.

In 1945 the family were reunited. "All three generations came back. Absolutely marvellous." The young couple moved to Israel and, although they sometimes visited England and knew Huffener's address, they never visited him. "I can understand," he says. "I wasn't all that popular with them, having wrenched their child away. There was an aspect of embarrassment about it. What are you supposed to do? Say thanks? You don't do it for thanks."

So why did he do it? Why risk death to save strangers when so many others did not? "I had Jewish friends," he begins. "It's difficult to say. I'm probably a bit odd in that I love cultural diversity . . ."

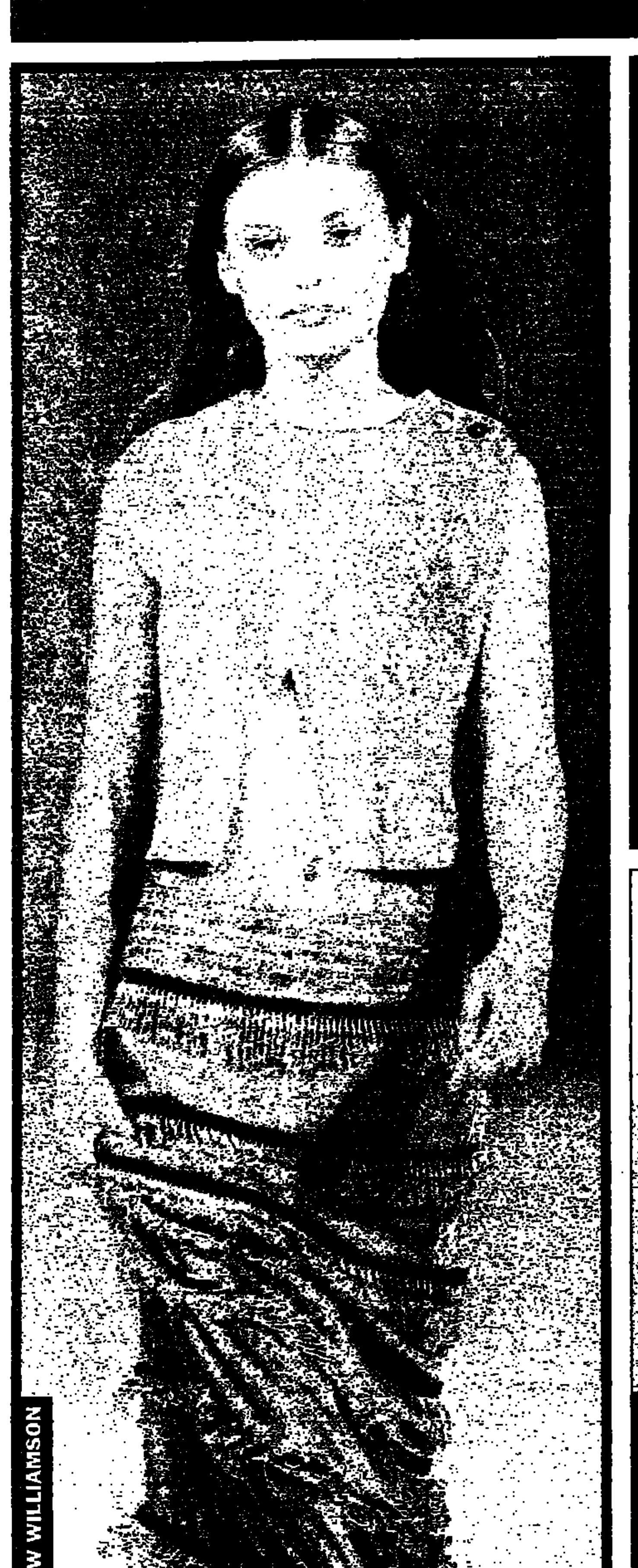
He seems reluctant to acknowledge his courage: "I've not suppressed the grim things, but I don't want to relate them all that much. I couldn't have survived if I hadn't got a frivolous mind."

He drifts into another anecdote. He has just moved to Amsterdam and has not yet found the land agent cousin with the spare houses. Instead he is in a grim flat, on the edge of a ghetto, sheltering with an old Jewish couple who have decided that they want to die. "A great troop of Germans come over the wooden bridge and spread out over the street. They start shouting 'Everybody downstairs with your bundles'. We're on the second floor. Beneath us is a West Indian man playing his saxophone. They go up the stairs, smashing the door. He comes out in his pyjamas. They shout at the guy 'Juden, Juden'. He says 'I'm not a Jew'. They say 'No, we know, you're a nigger'. He assures them that there is nobody upstairs and they turn and go downstairs."

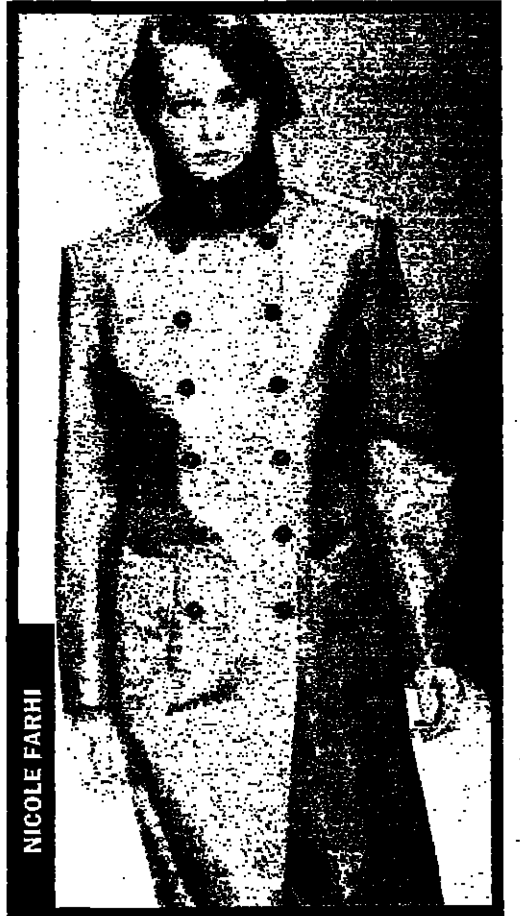
So the old Jewish couple, I ask, did they decide they wanted to live after all? "No," says Huffener shortly. "They killed themselves that night with cyanide pills."

LONDON FASHION WEEK

Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Photographs by **Simon Walker**



MATTHEW WILLIAMSON



NICOLE FARHI



GHOST





MATTHEW WILLIAMSON



BURBERRY



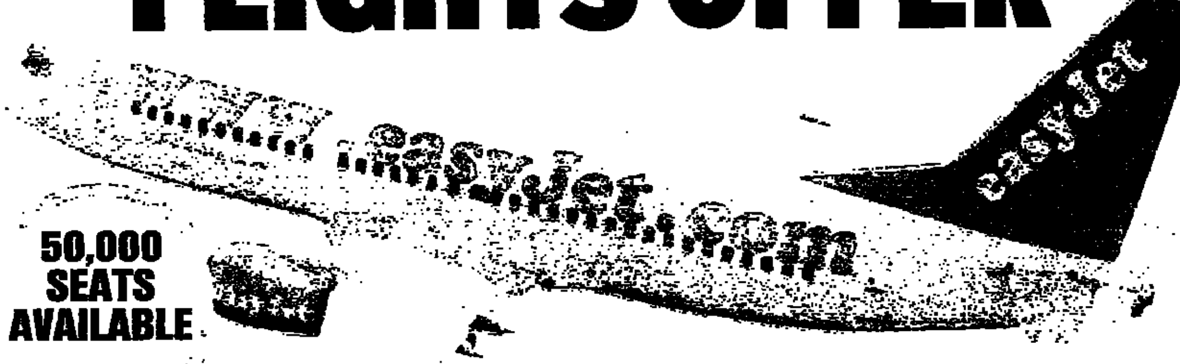
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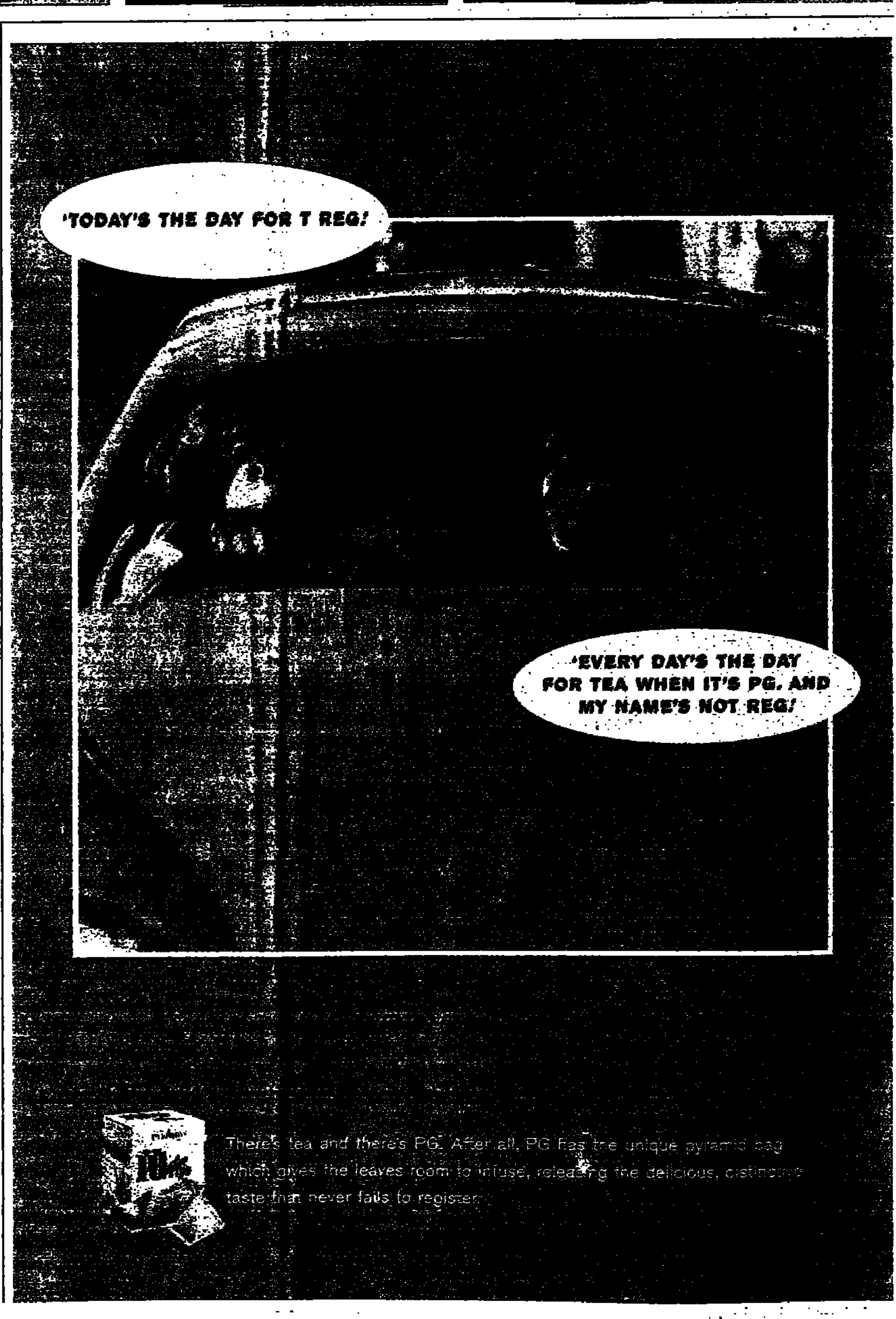
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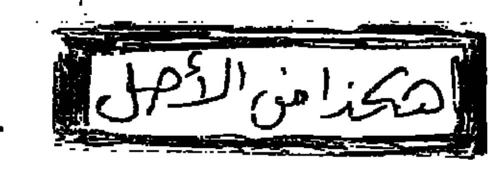
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CHANGING TIMES





LONDON FASHION WEEK

At last: clothes you can wear

Lisa Armstrong

FASHION EDITOR

It was the high-pitched squeal emanating from the depths of a scrum at Hussein Chalayan's show last Wednesday that reminded one of the good old days of London. "No, you cannot sit there on the floor blocking the stage," screeched the voice, with all the authority of a castrato teenager trying to impose order at a party held while parents are away.

Too late. Chaos reigned, in direct contrast to the beautiful Zen-like collection that eventually appeared to a soundtrack resembling a 12in remix of a muezzin's call. The central-heating system had collapsed, the vodka flowed, and deeply groovy people with most of their hair missing mingled with high-powered American fashion editors with most of their pantyhose missing (both sects have an awe-inspiring dedication to The Look).

And then it was on to the fabulously happening *Visionnaire* party at Harvey Nichols to celebrate the latest issue of the world's most fashionable magazine. This was the fashion world casting pashminas and cares to the wind; plenty of celebrities, pole dancers and exotic Dai Rees headwear (and that was just the waiters) and not a glimpse of the product. The usual fashion scenario, in other words, except that no one from Oasis got into a fight this time, unlike the unseemly tangle at Tommy Hilfiger's shop opening the previous night.

That was London: shows that were lovely, but you couldn't see much because of the dry ice or the dark; parties and much hand-wringing about whether the entire event is in its death throes. It's all so endearingly familiar. Every five years or so London fashion is supposedly about to meet its Maker. Someone cries wolf. It was dangerously fashionable, so inevitably it had to take a dip.

The uncertainty about Alexander McQueen — will-he/won't-he show in New York next time? — didn't help. He is going for one season, apparently, so that he can reach more customers in the United States. London fashion had better get over it. The good news is that there are plenty of newcomers jostling, if not to take his place, then at least to make a mark of their own. As the week wore on, more of them sprang up on an alternative schedule, clashing merrily with official shows and creating havoc all round. But thank heavens for them — they shone as boldly and brightly as daisies on a pristine lawn.

Not all the Young Turks were everything you might have hoped for. Robert Cary-Williams's tastefully named Victorian Car Crash collection cast a lot of calamine-pink zips in starring roles: they trailed from bits of half-finished cloth halfway down the catwalk and co-starred with some challenging footwear. Full marks for imagination then, though Marks & Spencer probably won't be rushing to sign him.

Still, if London Fashion Weeks of distant history were about creative anarchy, parties and three-legged trousers, now the event is also about things you might actually *want* to wear, even if this season was by no means a collective *tour de force*.

You might, for instance, be sorely tempted by any number of pieces by Matthew Williamson, who presented his best collection since his catwalk debut in 1997. The catalyst for this show, called Glomad (Day-Glo meets nomads), was the all-white hotel room in which he stayed during a recent visit to India. All-white decor is not really compatible with Williamson, who has forged a reputation for exotic colour and delicate detailing. He bought some cheap neon saris, placed them over the lampshades in his hotel room and was so startled by the effect that when he got home he painted everything in his flat in neon colours — including some of the fabrics for this collection.

The vibrant cashmeres with which Williamson made his name were still there, in jewel-coloured vests with vents up the front. But he has evolved from fragile-looking clothes to rugged hessians layered over luminous silks and trimmed with velvets and beads to make skirts that bridged the divide between evening and day wear beautifully.

Evening wear is something that British designers do well. At Paul Smith embroidered silk skirts and drop-waisted dresses were as pretty as the Cecil Beaton portraits of the Twenties "It girl" Daisy Fellowes, which presumably inspired them. Clements Ribeiro's textured velvet chiffon skirts were immensely desirable. And at Elspeth Gibson there was a winter version of the peasant top in velvet. Just add a pair of her lichen trousers and you have the casual-dressy approach to evenings covered.

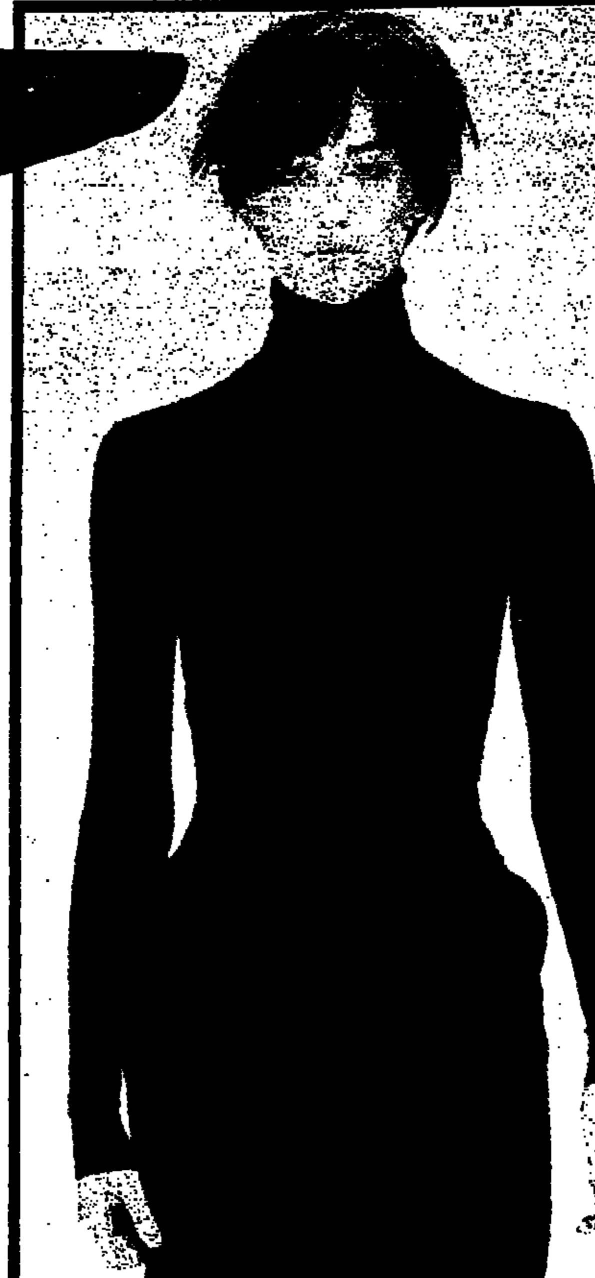
However, there is another evening dress code emerging, first sighted seasons ago at Yamamoto: the fully blown ball skirt. Ghost had vaguely Victorian ones, reinforced by the lace-up boots that were teamed with everything. Ben de Lisi's came in grey with a cowl-neck top; Deborah Milner's were in silver-matted orange wool. Milner, who has carved a name for herself with made-to-measure wedding dresses for various fashionistas, showed on the catwalk for the first time, with mixed results. This smacked of a graduate show with too many ideas designed to impress and not enough of the gorgeous clothes that she can do. Someone who has mastered the art of combining technical wizardry with beautiful clothes is Hussein Chalayan. Last week's collection was a stunning display of how inordinately complicated ideas can be wrought into serenely simple-looking pieces. Out they floated, those perfect woollen shift dresses and boxy jackets with matching skirts. Although his presentation veers towards the pretentious, he doesn't feel the need to point out how clever he is with his clothes. The only flashy moments were the asymmetric *millefeuille* layered felt skirts. In less skilled hands they would have looked ugly, but here they were ethereal.

Designers are looking to inject volume into fashion's previously slim silhouette. Alexander McQueen's puffball wool dresses were a different solution to the same problem. This was another moment that combined some of the best showmanship in the world with fabulous clothes — pin-sharp frock coats, curvy quilted jackets, poncho dresses — against a swirling, snowy background complete with howling wolves.

Spookily, Julien Macdonald opted for a snowcape, too, but while McQueen's was hauntingly apocalyptic, Macdonald's was kitsch. Owen Gaster's version was just cold, though he did come up trumps with a real wolf. That's the thing about London: you wait for years for a wolf, then three come along at the same time.

TRENDS ENGLISHNESS: tweeds, sheepskin, checks, Tanna lawn prints, argyle and cable knits — and wear in an unconventional mix. VOLUME: the new skirt/dress has flare. COLOURS: pumpkin (challenging), lichen (easier), black and white (inevitable) capes. MOOD: Antarctica — tons of fur (fake and otherwise); hooded cable-knits.

DAI REES


GHOST


PAUL SMITH


ALEXANDER McQUEEN


ELSPETH GIBSON


HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

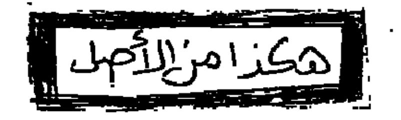
FASHION DIARY

By Lisa Armstrong

LUGGING half of London's press-release output around this week, I've also had plenty of cause to ponder that great imponderable: why is it impossible to find a bag that is just the right size?

They're either too small or so big that you end up lugging around a laptop, a mobile and three changes of clothing to stop the thing imploding. And the problem will intensify next winter with the flat pouch that is set to become the bag of the season . . . or so I thought. After research on the accessories stands in the exhibition part of London Fashion Week, I feel a solution in the offing. J and M Davidson's flat, shaggy ponyskin pouch, with a strap that slings across the body, is big enough for the bare essentials — wallet, keys, phone and lipstick, making them more accessible — while their not-too-big leather, nylon or tweed holdall will carry the overflow. Both are quirky, chic and practical — but not cheap. Dollargrand and Accessorize will have budget versions by autumn. You can take both these shapes to the office and nip out to lunch with just the pouch, which could also double as a night-time accessory since the dinky, decorative beaded bags we have all been wearing are going to look odd with the new, sportier evening wear looks that are bound to slip into the shops. OK, so you will need two bags — but then, life isn't perfect.

■ IT'S endearing to observe the effort that Madonna puts into staying ahead of the fashion pack. The energy required to maintain her biceps pales beside that expended on acquiring those £10,000 embroidered lilac Gucci trousers she wore at the Grammys — Outfit No 33 in the last show. Madonna ordered them three months ago. Not that money changed hands. As an insider says, once they hit the shops she won't want them any more.





COMEDY

Red Dwarf man and a hit Asian sitcom on stage

THIS PAGE

THE TIMES

ARTS

FILM





Imbecile firmly in charge

THEATRE

El Quijote
Gate, W11

In recent years the tiny Gate has accomplished so much — from rediscovering Spanish plays of the Golden Age to introducing us to the German dramatist Marie-Luise Fleisser to giving spare, simple productions of Kenneth McLeish's stunningly bold translations of Euripides — that it has every reason to make a fuss of itself.

It may, if it likes, celebrate its 20th birthday with a season called Idiots, "devoted to the sensibly challenged". It may even declare in its publicity bumf that "imbeciles are very firmly in charge at the Gate". We know it is the theatre's jokily disingenuous way of preparing us for Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and the satirical East European plays that will follow.

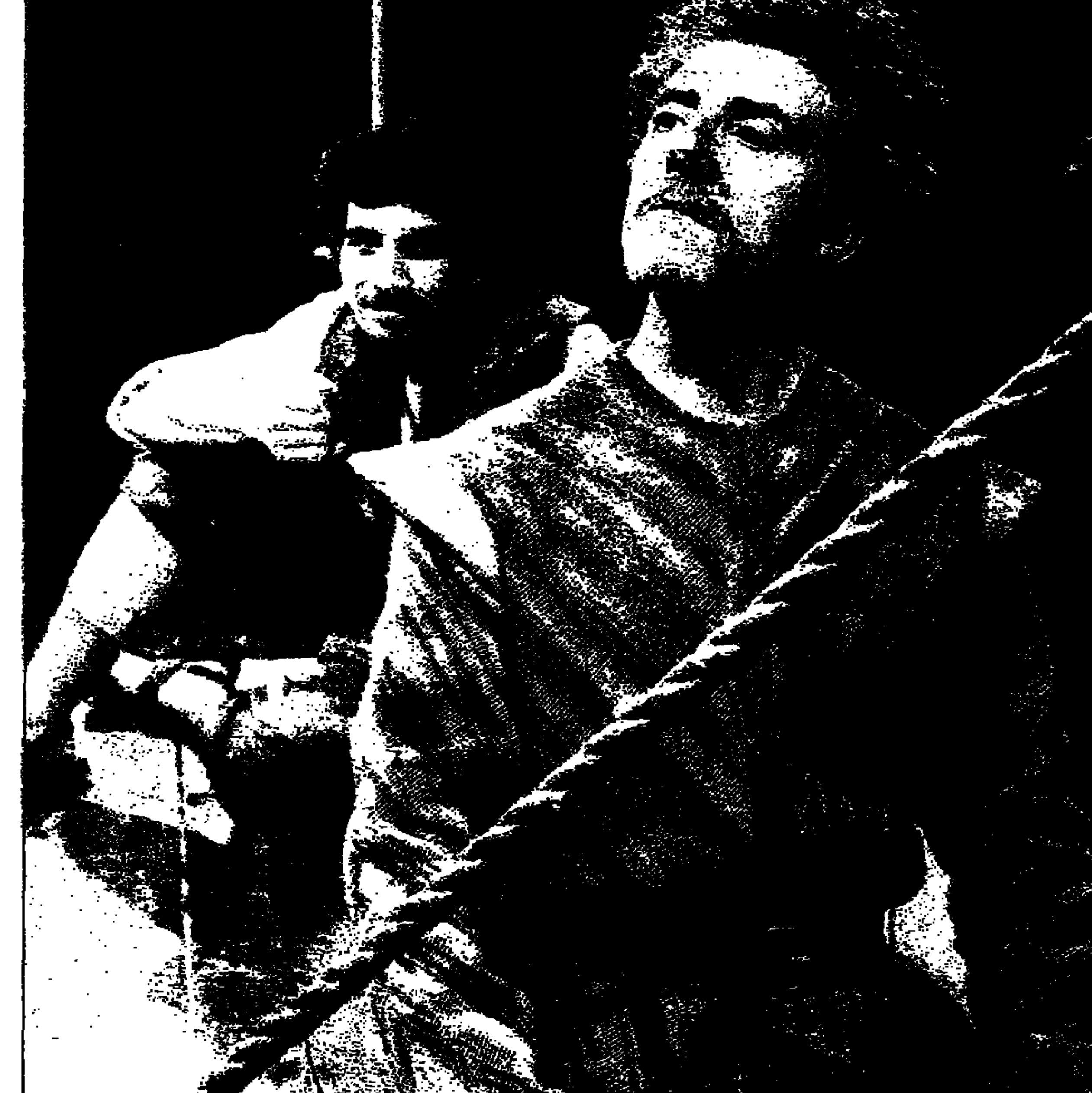
Or do we, and is it? If the Don in his most mentally addled mood had personally directed David Johnston's adaptation of his biography, he could not have produced anything more inept and incoherent. Somehow the long first-night interval summed up an event I was already categorising as good reason to get a few millennia off my time in Purgatory. True, it broke up an evening that lasted over three hours — but was it really necessary to send the wretched audience out of the auditorium to loiter in the cramped foyer, booze in the depressing pub below, or simply wander the cold Notting Hill streets?

When we returned to our seats, someone had shifted the sawdust on the stage floor. But the set, a drear blend of scaffolding and rope fashionably placed between two rows of spectators, seemed unchanged. The actors were still mooching about in their ugly village clothes or slumping just offstage. Part Two was much the same as Part One, only duller.

There are, of course, many hilarious incidents in the original novel, and a few of these are included in Marta Momblant Ribas's production. Patrick Kealey's monotonously grave and earnest Quixote mistakes a barber's basin for the magic helmet of Mambrino and snatches it from its stupefied owner. He confuses inns with castles, rips apart puppets who have offended his sense of chivalry, rescues a shepherd's boy from a deserved beating. Whether he tilts at windmills I cannot be sure, for the moment passed in a twinkling during which latecomers were distracting me. But little else is particularly lucid and nothing else is funny, so it hardly matters.

Nor is pace or clarity helped by the introduction of a narrator-guru in the form of Cide Hamete Benengali, whom Cervantes pretended was his story's inventor, and two female listener-commentators, both in modern togs and one with a half-penetrable accent. He gives them plonkingly obvious lectures about imagination, reality, reason and the other subjects the adapter wishes us to ponder — "nothing is what it seems, have you forgotten that already, my little budgerigars?" — while they do little but take up space and time. Mehmet Ergen's earthily good-natured Sancho Panza emerges with some credit from the deconstructionist banalities on offer, but otherwise — imbecility is the *mot juste*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



MARILYN KINGWILL

Mehmet Ergen and Patrick Kealey in the Gate's incoherent adaptation of the classic Cervantes tale of Don Quixote

Fresh and juicy

OPERA

Cardiff

PUCCINI'S early masterpiece is now more than 100 years old but remains as miraculously fresh as its subject-matter. Young love, youthful ideals and shattered dreams motivate the plot, and not many productions capture this spirit as well as Göran Järvefelt's 15-year-old staging for Welsh National Opera.

As revived here by Caroline Chaney, the production mixes humour and pathos in the same way as Puccini's score. Updating the action by a few decades to the time of the opera's composition, it remains realistic and traditional — but never conventional. Above all, it is a staging that "listens" to the music, recognising that Puccini never sentimentalises the hard existence of these Bohemians.

By the final act, the poverty is inescapable. The Bohemians' garret looks (in Michael Yeargan's designs) like a squat. Marcello has had to compromise his ideals and is busy producing a still life that will be easy to sell. In these surroundings it is not surprising that Mimì's death seems even more painful than usual.

It helps that all the principals are young: this is not the strongest cast WNO has ever fielded in *La Bohème*, but they are an evenly matched group of singing actors. It is less help that on the opening night they were often swamped by the orchestra under Graham Jackson. After a slightly scrappy start, Jackson settled down to conduct a performance full of theatrical life, but overdid the juice in what is already a very juicy score.

Alwyn Mellor gives perhaps the most fully rounded performance, singing with glowing tone and charting Mimì's decline poignantly. The Bohemians make a lively quartet, but Gwyn Hughes Jones's Rodolfo stands out for his sweetly lyrical tone. Simon Thorpe's Marcello is more deeply characterised, an overgrown naughty boy at the start who is perhaps most affected by events, and he boasts a warm baritone. Dean Robinson's Colline and Matthew Hargreaves's Schaunard are not overshadowed, however, and the latter sings the best Italian. Gail Pearson's perky Musetta is dynamite in a small package, and her slender soprano rides the ensembles brightly.

JOHN ALLISON

Mixed in with Asian spice

COMEDY: *Goodness Gracious Me* is attracting a mainstream audience to the theatre. **Clive Davis reports**

There had been mutterings that the level of inspiration was starting to wobble by the end of the second television series of Goodness Gracious Me. So it is refreshing to report that the stage version, which is on tour until the middle of next month, scores one greatest hit after another.

In a glum week for news on the race front, it was also encouraging to see not just a full house but a decidedly mixed crowd. When *GGM* star Sanjeev Bhaskar performed an accomplished solo show at the South Bank just after Christmas, he played to an audience that was 99 per cent Asian. Here at the Reading Hexagon was proof, if it were needed, that he and his colleagues are mainstream talents too.

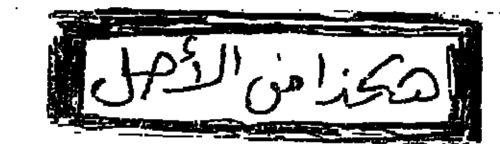
Bhaskar and Meera Syal have attracted most of the critical attention so far, partly for the very good reason that they contribute their own material. But this evening was very much a collective success. Kulvinder Ghir's clowning is put to superb use, particularly in a parody of an all-action, all-dancing movie hero. Nina Wadia makes a convincing transition from miniskirted Asian "It-girl" to the indomitable Mrs Bedi, a matriarch who is never caught without an aubergine in her handbag. The whole enterprise fizzes with the self-confidence of a Westernised generation that has come of age.

British paternalism receives a ritual poke in the eye in Toby Longworth's cameo performances as a nostalgic colonial gent and a dim-witted backpacker. But Asian insularity comes in for much more of a hiding. Gurus are treated with jovial disrespect, and we are introduced to a new chain of restaurants, Planet Bollywood, that seats its customers according to skin tone.

Some of the skits looked underpowered on a stage as large as the Hexagon's; Anil Gupta's direction would benefit from a little tightening. But we do have the opportunity to relive the English restaurant sketch, an instant classic which depicts a table full of Bombay rowdies bullying a timid Caucasian waiter: "What's the blandest dish on your menu?"

Craig Charles's role in another offbeat BBC2 series, *Red Dwarf*, forms one of the selling points for his national tour. Not that there were many touches of the surreal in his performance at Oxford Brookes University — apart from the bizarre sight of him lowering his trousers to display a chic set of stockings and suspenders. His well-publicised spell in prison supplies the meatiest sequence in his routine. For all the cheeky Scouse swagger he brings to his tales from a darkened cell, there is no mistaking the fear and loathing underneath.

The rest, though, tends to fall into a predictable run through off-colour, toilet and sex jokes. Even an account of a trip to Bill Gates's empire turns into an excuse to linger in the aeroplane's WC. A pity. At his best, when he allows his stream-of-consciousness indignation to bubble over into a poem, Charles conveys a real sense of individuality.



Good guys don't win prizes

CINEMA: Jeff Bridges may be Hollywood's most underrated star but it has never bothered him, as **Lesley O'Toole** discovered

Fear and paranoia are themes which permeate Jeff Bridges's films, and his new one — *Arlington Road*, opening in Britain this month — is no exception. A psychological thriller about neighbours who are not all they seem, it is precisely the kind of movie Bridges likes to see. "I love it when the film-maker is ahead of the viewer and there are so many twists that you don't know how something will turn out."

That, more than the role, proved the attraction here. That and his co-star, Tim Robbins, who, as the first star name attached to the project, had his pick of two equally interesting male lead roles. Bridges did not mind that whatever Robbins left was his own role. "Sometimes it's the other way round," he adds.

Bridges was also attracted by the film's "Hitchcockian feel" rather than its political subject-matter (American-based terrorism and its white militia perpetrators). "For me, the film is a fantasy on that level, though in Britain things must be very different. You have grown up with terrorism but even after something like the Oklahoma bombing, Americans still don't give the topic much credence. We prefer to live in a state of denial because we really don't want to think about these things."

Yet Bridges knows only too well that his on-screen paranoia in *Arlington Road* is both plausible and rooted in fact. On the film's set in Houston, Texas, last year, Bridges met many extras who had family and friends affiliated with white militia groups and he believes that a societal malaise persists in the country in spite of its buoyant economy. "I don't know that the state of the economy is entirely satisfying to everyone. Jobs are so low-paying that families still can't afford roofs over their head or the health cover they need."

Bridges, of course, has the luxury of being able to pick and choose his work. Clearly, his motivation is neither financial nor careerist. At 50, he is not only more handsome and versatile than Harrison Ford but seven years younger. Yet he has eschewed the conventional leading-man roles which could have placed him in the $20-million-per-movie pantheon. Asked which specific hits he passed on, Bridges responds with a slightly bemused: "I'm really not sure which films people mean when they say that, but I don't think I ever went down that movie star path. I always enjoy taking a 90-degree turn from the last thing I did."

The American film critic Pauline Kael once wrote that Bridges "may be the most natural and least self-conscious screen actor that ever lived". He has his own thoughts on the reasons he is able to imbue every character with credibility. "Audiences bring information into the theatre about what they last saw an actor in. Because I've done so many different roles, it's easier for me to project a character on to the actor so when people see me on screen, they think, 'Maybe he's the bad guy, maybe not'."

Though he enjoyed making *Arlington Road*, Bridges's experience was tinged with sadness when his father Lloyd Bridges died during the shoot. For years, Bridges doubted his merit as an actor, well aware of having a "foot in the door because my Dad was who he was". Though he made his film debut at the age of nine months — "I didn't do a very good job, they couldn't get me to cry" — it was not until he had made perhaps ten movies as an adult that he decided acting was what he wanted to focus on.

> 'I don't think I ever went down that movie star path'

His inauspicious film debut opposite Jane Greer was followed by a few parts on his father's television series, *Sea Hunt*. "He'd always say, 'Do you want to do this part? You'll be gone from school for a couple of weeks.' And when you're eight years old, it's kind of fun."

A little further on, he questioned whether he was acting simply because his father did, but eventually realised that "they wouldn't hire me if I was no good. After that, the feeling started to go away."

Two Academy Award nominations by the age of 25 helped. At 22, he was nominated as Best Supporting Actor for his endearing guy-next-door in Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show* and three years later for *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. In the 1980s, Bridges enjoyed a spectacular run, winning Best Actor for his alien masquerading as human in *Starman*. He hit box-office success again the same year in *Against All Odds*, though the success of that film paled next to that of *Jagged Edge*.

But his early popularity with Academy members did not convert into the recognition he should have earned for a clutch of 1990s films — *The Fisher King*, *Fearless* and the low-budget *American Heart*, which he also produced. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* film critic, calls him "the most underappreciated great actor of his generation", though she was not thinking of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, starring and directed by Barbra Streisand and featuring Bridges as her bemused suitor.

Unsurprisingly, given his huge resumé, Bridges cannot name a favourite film. "I have a bit of fondness for all of them. Sometimes I feel the end result, the movie, is almost a by-product of the real process, which is just being alive, finding out about yourself and your character and having relationships with the people you're working with."

Bridges documents each filming experience by photographing it extensively. Polygram bought "thousands" of his photos taken on the set of *Arlington Road* and printed a limited edition of 5,000 promotional books, with handwritten captions by Bridges. If anyone mounts an awards campaign for the film, the book will make an excellent gift for the Golden Globe voters. (Oscar voters are not allowed to receive such promotional items.)

In fact, Bridges is so long overdue some awards that he probably fancied his chances when those Academy favourites, the Coen brothers, wrote a part for him in *The Big Lebowski*, their follow-up to *Fargo*. The film, though, generated none of the generation-transcending buzz of its predecessor. Was he surprised?

"I was because it made me laugh and, for me, John Turturro's performance is unbelievable. But then I'm constantly surprised that I'm still surprised in this business. I admire the Coen brothers so much because they're so not about the awards and the hoopla. They're totally low-key." So too is the very affable Bridges, who lives a singularly normal-sounding life in an idyllic beach town north of Los Angeles with his wife and three teenage daughters.

His life outside work consists mostly of "music and ceramics". Not only is he not worried about his own neighbours: he makes music with them. He also plays guitar and piano for the ensemble's "jazzy stuff with some rock and some pop". When feeling in need of creative stimulus, he tackles a 12-week course prescribed by the book *The Artist's Way*. "Each day, the first thing you do is write three pages of stream of consciousness. Mine normally starts off with something like 'I really, really, really don't feel like doing this'. You empty all this stuff out and then, all of a sudden, other things just come out."

Bridges emptied another load of "stuff" on his daughters before signing on for *The Big Lebowski*. "I was so conflicted because I was thinking, 'I'm going to play this dope-smoking guy. What about my girls? What kind of role model is that?'" He sat them down and gave them a long speech. "I was sweating. Finally, I ran out of words and they just looked at me and said, 'Dad, it's a movie'."

● Arlington Road *is released in Britain on March 19*

DAVIS FACTOR/OUTLINE



Laid back: Jeff Bridges is unfazed by his lack of awards — "I'm constantly surprised that I am still surprised in this business"

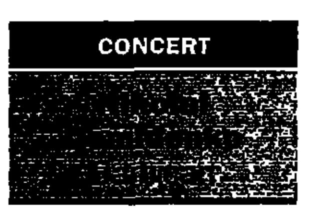
Too tight for comfort

Beethoven is really rather early music for Nikolai Demidenko. The Russian pianist, who has collected awards for his recordings of Medtner, Tchaikovsky and Scriabin, was likely to have very much his own way with Beethoven. And so it was when his *Pathétique* and *Tempest* Sonatas exploded on the Barbican Hall on Tuesday.

At the start of the *Pathétique*, the energy which is coiled into those severe opening chords, ready to break out in the impulsive rising figures which follow, seemed in Demidenko's hands compacted. Where Beethoven's strength and imagination seems constantly to be expanding, breaking its own bounds, Demidenko's seemed to be compressing itself, rigorously scaling down. This generated its own idiosyncratic excitement.

The outer movements fairly crackled with nervous tension,

CONCERT



setting into relief a central slow movement so thoughtfully phrased that its song was heard breathing anew. And there was to be no relaxation of tension. Demidenko's tall frame remained crouched over the keyboard, taut with anticipation.

For Beethoven's *Tempest* Sonata, he found a compellingly hushed and exploratory opening. As the fingers touched each rising note into being, it seemed as if anything could happen. And each time those quiet, self-communing phrases returned out of the hurly-burly, they grew more isolated, until finally they were conjured into song, as if from another, far distant frequency.

There was a palpable sense of physical relief as Demidenko turned to Liszt and was able to spread himself once more, stretching every sinew of his body and that of the piano itself.

The young Liszt certainly intended to test both performer and instrument in the *Etudes d'execution transcendante d'après Paganini*. Demidenko played two of them: *La chasse*, dapper and devilish in its rhythmic control, and *La Campanella*, in which he seemed to have not quite enough freedom to tease out the whimsy.

There was not much of a smile on his face, either, in the two operatic transcriptions which framed the *Etudes* and his powerfully shaped Ballade No 2 in B minor. The *Waltz and Capriccio on two themes from "Lucia et Parisina"* was nicely deadpan in its virtuosity. But Liszt's *paraphrase de concert* on *Rigoletto* was, after all, quite the most outrageously successful PR package for Verdi's opera before Jonathan Miller's juke-box and Demidenko's frenzied performance made it just a little less fun.

HILARY FINCH





■ POP

Alanis Morissette flags her July UK tour with a surprise date at Shepherds Bush

GIG: Tonight

REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Master violinist Gidon Kremer plays Piazzolla's steamy tangos at the QEH

CONCERT: Tomorrow

REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

At the Queens Rufus Sewell plays the Thane in Shakespeare's Scottish Play

OPENS: Wednesday

REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Talk show queen-turned-film star Oprah Winfrey feels haunted in *Beloved*

RELEASED: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* opens in Bath and Darlington tonight

Blair books his ticket to euroland

A danger to the Tories as the odds shorten on entry

Nothing is inevitable in politics. But there are probabilities — and British entry into the euro is now probable. Tony Blair has made entry a strategic aim of his Government. For all the careful wording of his Commons statement, he cast aside previous ambiguities that allowed some sceptic commentators to delude themselves that he was really on their side. The Government will now actively seek to achieve entry. Of course, like any shrewd politician, Mr Blair left himself a let-out clause by stressing the economic tests.

However, failure to join in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for his strategy of closer involvement in the European Union, and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. This is leaving aside the possibility of defeat in a referendum, which could be fatal to his premiership, but he would not call one unless he was sure of winning.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* indicates that opinion has become less hostile to entry. The precise figures showing an even balance for and against might differ with a slightly altered question, but the trend is clear and is backed by other recent polls. More significant is that half the public is persuadable either way, depending on what it thinks would be best for the economy. So much for the myth of a firmly sceptic electorate. Moreover, over two thirds of the public regards entry as likely-inevitable.

A sizeable minority of the public, now about a quarter, is strongly opposed to British participation.

That is, in effect, the position of the Tory leadership and is William Hague's instinct ("a nation that has decided its own destiny for 1,000 years"), rather than just ruling out entry for the next Parliament. However, such an absolute position may also be limiting the Tory potential for recovery. A recent MORI poll commissioned by John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, the former Tory MEPs and founders of the new Pro-European Conservative Party, showed that a pro group led by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke might not only attract 13 per cent support (against 19 per cent for Mr Hague's party) but it could also win back Tory defectors from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The Stevens-Donnelly group may be no more than spoilers in this June's European elections, but their activity shows that Mr Hague cannot assume that a majority will rally to a "save the pound" call. That may be true of a hard core, but any referendum will be decided by the much larger number whose vote will be swayed by their economic interests.

The Government's case is that Britain would be left behind outside the euro with people worse off and investment at risk. Joining will be presented as a logical step rather than a big leap. That means showing that the euro is successful and that Britain would fit into euroland.

Serious tensions do exist, as shown by the squabbling between finance ministers and the European Central Bank, and by the failure at Friday's summit to make progress over reform of the budget and farm policies. Mr Blair has to be able to show that Europe is reforming itself and that its labour, capital and product markets are becoming more competitive.

However, arguments over the proposed levy on art sales and the threat to the Eurobond market from a withholding tax make the EU appear less attractive, and Mr Blair also has to show that further moves towards closer integration and qualified majority voting are not against British interests.

The New Europe group launched today by David Owen, with mainstream-centrist backing, is fighting on this ground with its anti-monetary union but pro-European line, a socially acceptable scepticism that is not right-wing. But how does it avoid the embrace of the ultras?

Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine are now happy to work in an all-party campaign with Mr Blair. Will Lord Owen's group be content to sit with Bill Cash and his allies?

The Owen approach is more fundamentally flawed. Despite legitimate doubts over monetary union, the group still believes that Britain can pick and choose which bits of the EU it wants to join with no adverse consequences. But Britain cannot really have a central role in the EU if it is outside monetary union for long. Other countries, and many in the City and big business accept, albeit reluctantly, that Britain cannot join for three or four years. But any longer and Britain will suffer a loss of business and investment.

Peter Riddell

Moreover, the policies adopted by the euro 11 will have a direct impact on Britain, and we will have no influence on them outside the euro. Many Tories are content to accept such a detached position, and want Britain to renegotiate its relationship with the EU anyway. The Owen group wants Britain to be part of Europe, yet, as Mr Blair has come to recognise, that is not consistent with being outside a successful single currency.

The debate will turn on these questions of economic advantage. The Tories are in danger of being seen not just as split, as they may be in the Euro elections, but also as detached from most of mainstream business. As Mr Blair remarked last Tuesday, there could even be "the delicious irony of going into the next general election with the only fears on the financial markets being the prospect of a Tory election victory".

There is still a big task of persuasion, and winning a referendum will not be easy, especially if the Tories recover strongly at the next election. But by at last taking a lead, Mr Blair has started to shift the odds in favour of entry.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



We haven't a prayer

From the millennium prayer to government by cliché and the dumbing of ITV, we are in the grip of dunces

My grandson Wilfrid, who is four years old, was getting annoyed with his mother; in the angry voice little boys use, he said: "I want you out of my language." That was how I felt when I read the text of the millennium "prayer"; it has so annoyed the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster that they are thinking of boycotting the Dome on millennium night. They will, in any case, be much better off with their own congregations, in their own cathedrals, praying to their God. The Dome has no faith, though it smells faintly of neo-paganism.

The prayer, as quoted in the *Daily Mail*, reads: "Let there be respect for the Earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start."

No mention of God; no mention of Christ. The churches are said to be spending £6 million sending a copy of this string of slogans, together with a free candle, to 18 million homes in Britain. Apart from the Dome itself, there can hardly be a greater waste of money. There are quite enough people in Britain already who speak in clichés — almost all of the new Labour Party for a start — without spending £6 million on dumbing down our language still further.

My first reaction to the millennium prayer was to compare it with genuine prayers, with the Lord's Prayer, psalms, with the prayers of great religions. It does, indeed, borrow some religious language. "Let there be" comes from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. "And God said, 'let there be light': and there was light." "Respect" is a word used in the Mafia to describe the deference appropriate to the leader of a criminal organisation. "Respect for the Earth" is a green slogan.

"Peace for its people" is quite close to "peace in our time", which Neville Chamberlain, on his return from Munich, borrowed from the *Book of Common Prayer*. "People" is, of course, a new Labour word, as in "People's Princess". "Love in our lives" occupies an intermediate position between a religious statement and the lyric of an old-fashioned popular song; it could well be the last line of one of those mawkish modern hymns written for children.

"Delight in the good" is a mysterious, even ambiguous, phrase. Are we being advised to delight in good things, as a wine expert might savour a glass of Château-Lafite, or a silver connoisseur might admire a Paul Storr saltcellar? Or are we simply supposed to delight in doing good, which often involves labour and self-sacrifice? Isaac Watts thought that all creatures delighted in the natural appetites God had given them. "*Let dogs delight to bark and bite, For God hath made them so; Let bears and lions growl and fight, For 'tis there nature too.*"

"Forgiveness for past wrongs" mixes one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer with the modern habit of apologising for historic evils, such as the slave trade or the potato famine. My own Irish ancestors were on the wrong side of the potato famine, so I regularly apologise to them on behalf of my English ancestors. Finally, one comes to "and from now on a new start", which sounds like a new Labour slogan for the next general election.

William Rees-Mogg

The whole thing is not a prayer at all. As the *Daily Mail* reports: "Supporters point out that it was carefully composed so that it could be used by Christians, those of other faiths and those of no faith at all." It is a political statement, designed to persuade people of differing views that they are in agreement when they are not. I do not know whether it is more offensive for its stylistic clumsiness, for the meretricious use of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vacuity of meaning with intellectual dishonesty.

The Dome has become the grand national symbol of the process of dumbing-down. It is splendid news that the Jubilee Line may not be finished, so the best way to get there on the night may be to abandon one's car in Greenwich and jog through a disused container port. That sounds an ideal way to celebrate the start of the new millennium.

In Inspector Clouseau's accent, "dome", "dump", "damp", and "dumb" all sound very much the same. The Prime Minister has told the Queen she must spend millennium night in a dumb dome, or perhaps in a damp dump. That will make her the new People's Queen, and help him to remain the new People's Prime Minister.

Another, and more than symbolic, dumbing-down has been the wanton destruction of independent television. I hope it will be discussed at the conference on dumbing-down which *The Times Literary Supplement* is mounting next Friday. For 30 years, ITV produced some of the best television in Britain, constantly challenging and often surpassing the BBC. It has already been reduced to a shadow of what it once was. One can read the ITV programme on most nights without seeing anything that raises a flicker of interest or pleasure. Even the great Melvyn Bragg only comes on at a late hour, and has been encouraged to follow the dreary agenda of political correctness.

I am not criticising ITV for excessive emphasis on popular entertainment — would that I could — but for the oceanic boredom of its schedules. From 8pm to 9pm this evening, a peak viewing hour, ITV will be showing 30 minutes of surveillance footage, taken by HM Customs, followed by a half hour of home improvements on the Wirral. Of course, there is always *Coronation Street*: "Maxine struggles to cope at the salon in the absence of Audrey, while Gary and Judy decide on godparents for the twins." There is gritty socialism for you. However, there has always been the compensation of *News at Ten*, topical, well-presented, well-edited, the most professional of the network news services. For more than 40 years that has remained an excellent news programme; in its first years it forced the BBC to modernise news broadcasting; in the early 1960s, I remember ITN introducing the first televised Budget broadcast and the first live computer forecasts on the general election night programme. Alastair Burnet presented both of them; I had the good luck to be one of the talking heads. Now *News at Ten* is to go, despite the well-deserved popularity, and the seriousness, of Trevor McDonald. From dawn to dewy eve, ITV will be dullness, dullness, dullness.

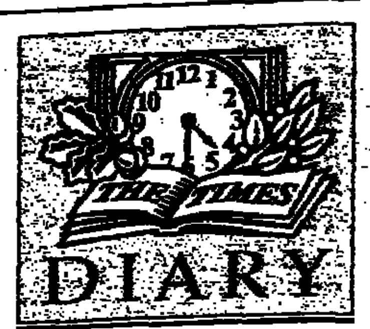
The commercial companies are, in the their own commercial terms, destroying what used to be the strongest of network brands. Of course, as the ITV network vanishes down the plughole, it will still be possible to watch the *Jerry Springer Show*. Jerry Springer has a sinister rather than merely mindless vulgarity. *News at Ten* is dead, but Jerry Springer lives.

As with the dumb Dome, complete with its God-free spirit zone, Tony Blair's Government must share the blame for the destruction of the ITV tradition. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also responsible for broadcasting. He appointed Gerry Robinson, the chairman of Granada, as the chairman of the Arts Council. Mr Robinson dumbed -down Granada, and has done his best to dumb down the Arts Council as well. Mr Smith continues to ooze sincerity and soundbites on television as the apostle of support for the arts.

The Prime Minister has done more than anyone in British public life to substitute propaganda images for political debate. From the start of his leadership, he spoke in soundbites for the soundbites came. He uses political language to sentimentalise and dissolve the real issues of policy, not to define them. It is rather the same as a conjurer using patter to distract his audience from what he is actually doing. No doubt this is a worldwide fashion. President Clinton himself abuses language as well as women.

Alexander Pope described the triumph of unreason in the *Dunciad*. "*Lo! Thy dread empire, Chaos, is restored; Light dies before thy uncreating word.*" Our national dialogue has been denatured; in religion, in politics, in social debate there has been a substitution of spin and image for language, truth and logic. I am extending Wilfrid's motto: "I want the dunces out of my language."

comment@the-times.co.uk



Tally low

LEAKY roofs at the National Trust, courtesy of the Prince of Wales's friends: the wrangle over the charity's ban on staghunting is heading for the courts again, and its coffers are emptying sharpish.

The trust, which has already spent more than £200,000 on legal fees, is being pursued with renewed vigour by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, whose supporters include Hugh Van Cutsem, a pal of Prince Charles. Money for the case has to be diverted from conservation work.

My tip for a better use of funds: Hardwick Hall, the Duke of Devonshire's former ancestral seat — memorably described by Lord Torrington as "one of the proudest piles I ever beheld" — which is crumbling to dust in trust hands. Says a big welly: "They should put down their briefs and get back to drystone walls."

CRISPIAN MILLS, Sir John Mills's pop-singing grandson, on his route into rock star debauchery: "I grew up with pictures of my Mum [Hayley Mills, below, with clan] looking very young, standing with John Wayne or Walt Disney. That did something to my head."



■ AN archbishop has fallen out with his estate agent, and is worried about a lost £8 million. Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales, had his unhappy brush with Mammon after flogging Church of Wales land for £27 million: shortly afterwards, the canny buyer sold it on for £35 million. Over to Knight Frank, the land's valuers, who tell me cautiously: "We understand the Church is still considering its position."

IS Rosie Boycott the new Parky? My close chum, the Editor-in-Chief of Express Newspapers, has told friends she wants to be a chat show host. Her hoped-for outlet, Channel 5, is about as popular as her current home.

■ LAWYERS have been ruminating over the appointment of Mr Justice Lightman to hear the most recent BCCI case. In his more humble days as a QC, Lightman defended Abbas Gokal, one of the BCCI baddies. After Lord Hoffmann's Amnesty troubles, this is sensitive stuff, but Cherie Booth, one of the defending lawyers, was happy: she spoke to Lightman about his record and was convinced of his impartiality.



AN illegitimate Dome has been born. The company building the real thing is erecting a 50-metre-high practice tent for the circus types who will perform at Greenwich.

■ NICK HORNBY turned to laddish novel-writing after his inky ambitions were thwarted. Hornby, a recent £2 million transfer to Penguin, was a listless graduate when he applied to the journalism course at City University. Cruelly rebuffed, he turned his hand to fiction. "We look for commitment, aptitude and personality," says Linda Christmas, City's current taskmistress. "Anyway, journalism is not about writing."

ROYAL cinematic preferences will be clear when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Angels, the world's largest theatrical costumiers, on Thursday. While the Queen will peruse outfits from Elizabeth *and* Shakespeare in Love, *Prince Philip has asked to see the Nazi uniforms from* Saving Private Ryan.

JASPER GERARD

'Those Tsars, Tsarinas and party General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest'

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one, that you would not have to be seriously unstable to want it.

It seems that everyone who is anyone, from film directors to food magnates, is enthusiastically denying any intention to run (seemingly the accepted way of announcing the beginning of your presidential campaign).

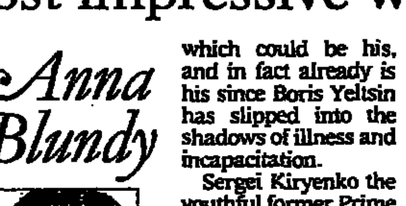
To any outside observer, the advantages of being President here would appear to be few. In fact, aside from the fact that the Moscow traffic is completely cleared from the roads to allow the smooth passage of your entourage, they are non-existent. No leader in the whole documented history of the country can be characterised either by their uniformly great achievements or by their sanity. Those Tsars, Tsarinas and General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest.

Aleksei Konstantinovich Tolstoy's 19th-century poem *History of Russian Government* is a satire documenting Russia's changes of leadership, and, though he recounts the literary triumphs of Catherine the Great's reign and the naval prowess of Peter the Great, the following refrain echoes throughout the poem: "Our country is rich but there is still no order here."

Yet to this day there are plenty of people clamouring to create some. It seems that half the presidential pretenders do not themselves know why they seek power. Yevgeni Primakov genuinely had no desire to step in when persuaded to become Prime Minister last September, and such is the madness of Russian political life that he is one of the most popular contenders for President in 2000, although he still insists that he will not be running.

Vladimir Dovgan, however, a 36-year-old food and drink millionaire, has saturated the airwaves and billboards with adverts for his new Dovgan Party, even though he has failed to register even for December's parliamentary elections. He says he may run for President in 2004.

Nobody believes Primakov's claims of non-participation but I think his reluctance is entirely understandable. Primakov has said he wants to retire and do some fishing, which sounds good when compared with the job of constant crisis management which could be his, and in fact already is his since Boris Yeltsin has slipped into the shadows of illness and incapacitation.


Anna Blundy

Sergei Kiryenko the youthful former Prime Minister, ousted after precipitating the financial crisis last August, has also hurled himself back into the fray with his bid for a parliamentary seat centring on a series of heart-warming television advertisements which depict him building a toy town with his son.

His party, Novaya Sila, runs under the slogan "do it yourself", though Kiryenko has hinted that he might, in fact, do it with Primakov in the presidential elections, should the Prime Minister finally decide to run.

In a televised interview last Thursday night, Kiryenko attested to his relative sanity and said that he hates politics. Although he could easily become a businessman or a consultant, it seems, nevertheless, that he just cannot help himself.

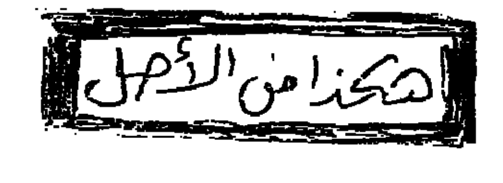
The film director Nikita Mikhalkov, who has admitted the remote possibility of his running for President if asked, launched his campaign last week with the premiere of his new patriotic film *The Barber of Siberia*, described by some as "an advert for Russia".

None of the world's many "whither, Russia?" pontificaters really fancy Mikhalkov's political chances this time round, since Primakov is at least managing to maintain the distance and dignity required of a man not running for President, while strenuously consolidating his power base.

The other candidates, whose intentions are less of a secret, are hysterically rallying support. Governor Aleksandr Lebed, Afghan War veteran and currently top of the volatile presidential succession polls, is set to attend the eighth annual Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party at the Beverly Hills Hotel as part of his unlikely effort to appear more palatable to the West, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, continues to dazzle Muscovites and visitors to the city with Moscow's new-look cleanliness and relative affluence.

People such as Grigori Yavlinsky, of Yabloko, can be virtually ruled out on grounds of sanity, whereas Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communists, well, you only have to take one look at him to see that this is a man who must really, really want to govern Russia.

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THE COMMONS INTEREST

MPs should support radical reform of the Lords

The Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords will today hold its first official meeting. In nine months it must produce a blueprint for reform. Lord Wakeham's appointment to the commission in January was widely welcomed because of his reputation as an efficient and flexible chairman. It was assumed then that additional constitutional expertise would be offered by other members of his committee. Although the 12 people who will assemble this morning are distinguished figures, relatively few have specific knowledge of this area. This has fuelled fears, as we report in our pages today, that the commission might feel confident to recommend only the minimum changes.

A limited approach might restrict itself merely to the abolition of the 91 hereditary peers allowed for in the plan that cost Viscount Cranborne his job last year and the introduction of a similar number of elected or even indirectly elected individuals. The bulk of the new body would be nominated. The powers of the Lords might be reduced to offset the new authority that even a slightly more democratic chamber could hold. This would be a grave mistake, producing an Upper House neither sufficiently elected to make its weight effective, nor sufficiently empowered to play the proper role of a second chamber. That would not correct the imbalances between executive and legislature that are at the core of Britain's constitutional difficulties.

There is, however, a powerful lobby in favour of such a flawed solution. It consists almost exclusively of long-serving members of the House of Commons. This cross-party contingent shares the sentiment that any truly credible second chamber would inevitably eclipse the standing of the Lower House. The larger the elected element, it is feared, the more intense is that threat. Lord Wakeham and Gerald Kaufman, the senior Labour Party appointee on the commission, might conclude that the reform which will be most widely welcomed in Parliament, thus ensuring a swift passage into law, is one that closely reflects the wishes of such MPs.

This would be a major miscalculation of Parliament's best interests. It is not the case that a strengthened House of Lords must automatically lead to a commensurate reduction in the status of the Commons. Throughout this century the formal and informal powers of the Lords have remorselessly declined. This has not made the Commons an ever more mighty force. The opposite is true. The main beneficiaries of a weak second chamber have been ministers and party managers. They, and not the House of Commons, would again be the victors if the Royal Commission backs only marginal alterations to the structure of the Upper House.

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. This alone will allow for rigorous scrutiny of the executive, a searchlight that, by exposing defective policy early, is ultimately in the interests of the Government as well. Serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. Indeed, it may be the only event that emboldens backbenchers on all sides to demand new rights. The Conservative Party has spoken of late of its desire to restore the prestige of Parliament. It can advance that cause through Lords reform.

If the Tories are to have influence, they must act quickly. The committee led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern will shortly produce a set of options which the Shadow Cabinet will then consider. The Conservatives require a single, distinctive and radical proposal. This should lead them towards a reformed House of Lords that is half-elected and half-nominated. The elected section should contain members serving for lengthy, nonrenewable, terms to ensure their independence. Such a programme would put pressure on the Labour Party to endorse an equally imaginative scheme. It would also be an invaluable contribution to this most important debate.

GOOD EUROPEANS AGAINST EMU

A powerful, coherent non-partisan case for staying out

The Commons exchanges that followed Tony Blair's presentation of the National Changeover Plan last week revealed more about the political hand that the Prime Minister intends to play over the next two years than it did about the "objective" economic tests which the Government says will determine its position on EMU. Against reasoned, principled argument, his trump will be that those who oppose giving up sterling for the euro have a hidden agenda which is viscerally anti-European. Voters, he will suggest, have more sense than to align themselves with yesterday's men, old Tory dogs yapping at the heels of history's caravan. He will present the pro-EMU case as part of Labour's modernising agenda, a logical strategy for increasing Britain's international influence as well as its prosperity.

In response to this New Europe, the group that David Owen launches today to put the case against joining, offers a direct and powerfully argued riposte from a distinctively European standpoint. Lord Owen has long championed the European Union; so have the politicians, economists and business leaders around him. This is a non-partisan group of former Cabinet ministers from Left and Right. Lord Prior as well as Lord Healey, of businessmen and economists who have advised this Government as well as the last. It has resources, trustworthy leadership, and a simple, coherent message.

The heart of New Europe's case is that opposition to joining EMU is entirely consistent with a positive British role in the EU. That role should be to promote an outward-looking, dynamic Union, close to the governed and politically as well as economically flexible. Not only is staying out consistent with this vision; it would actually fit better with a modern European vision than the fatalistic notion that just because the euro exists, Britain must join. That is because EMU is not only untested, but inherently flawed. A single interest rate cannot, by definition, take account of multiple national conditions. Rather than guaranteeing stability, growth and high employment, EMU could thus aggravate the rigidities that have inflicted stagnation and dole queues on much of the EU. For Britain, EMU would be a straitjacket.

Politically, EMU implies a federal Europe. A British decision to join would be, as the group points out, "a decisive step towards turning Britain into a mere province of Europe, with a consequent loss not only of independence but of democratic accountability". Outside, Britain retains the advantages of language, light regulation and flexible markets — and in sterling, a currency that would be more stable than the euro against the dollar. For these and other reasons that New Europe identifies, joining "in the foreseeable future" would actually make it harder, not easier, "to achieve the new Europe that we want to see", united, co-operative but not federal.

New Europe speaks to those, probably a majority of the electorate, who know that Britain's destiny lies within the EU but who have deep doubts about the political as well as economic wisdom of taking this irrevocable step. It provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. While working with groups such as Business for Sterling, it sees the need to stay well clear of other, Europhobic campaigns against EMU. This is a serious case, argued by serious people. It offers what Britain needs, a proper debate.

TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

The Princess Royal should make Holyroodhouse her home

In 1822, George IV made the first visit to Scotland by a ruling monarch since the 1630s. His visit caused a furore. Few Scots had seen their King before. And there he was before their eyes, dressed in a kilt, a garment that had been banned after the Jacobite rebellion. The magic of such a royal progress captivated the public and, 177 years later, faced with the prospect of separatist, centrifugal forces unleashed by devolution, royal advisers are now dreaming up similar plans to bolster the Union. Court sources have been quick to dismiss reports that part of their "Scottish initiative" could include making the Palace of Holyroodhouse the Princess Royal's "official residence". They should think again. Such an act could not be more apposite. George IV would have approved.

Given her close links with Scotland, the Princess Royal has excellent credentials to become a Princess Regent in Edinburgh. She has made more appearances north of the border than any other member of the Royal Family. Her son has played for Scotland in international rugby and she is herself patron of that vital institution, the Scottish Rugby Union.

Even so, the Princess would be forgiven for viewing the idea with trepidation. She might well be given a frosty reception by some, especially members of the Scottish National Party. Its official policy is to retain the Queen as head of state when she is resident in Scotland, with the Speaker of the new parliament fulfilling the role in her absence. Yet according to a 1998 opinion poll, nearly half the SNP's candidates for the parliament would vote to abolish the monarchy. Their republicanism makes a royal presence even more important.

Holyroodhouse lies just a few hundred yards from the Scottish parliament. For the Princess to become a neighbour to politicians charting Scotland's future might be criticised as mere symbolism, but symbolism can be a powerful riposte to the lures of separatism.

A royal resident would remind Scots of the shared values that, even with devolution, bind the United Kingdom. Leaving the palace empty, bar the few weeks each year when the Queen makes it her home, could be cited by the SNP as evidence of an absent, uncaring monarchy, for whom Scotland is little more than a place for holidays. The Royal Family has a crucial, cohesive role to play in tempering Scottish separatism. The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour; but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Priorities for Nato peace negotiators

From Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, While they prepare for the recommencement of the talks on Kosovo in two weeks' time, I suggest that the leaders of Nato ponder four near-certainties.

First, that the war cannot stop without actual Nato intervention. If it does not stop now, it will go on and on, with ever greater destruction and massacre on the Bosnian model. Nato's reputation will be in shreds and its threats will no longer carry the slightest weight.

Second, that the Kosovan claim to independence is very reasonable and its eventual achievement next to inevitable. Everything now happening, and that has happened since 1989, makes it almost unthinkable that they should agree to remain yoked to Serbia. To close the road to future independence by not allowing for a referendum, even in five years' time, is as gravely undemocratic as it would be in the case of Scotland.

Third, that, paradoxical as it may seem, the only way to save the surviving Serb minority from extinction is to ensure Kosovan self-government now, with firm minority safeguards. The longer the war continues, the more certain it is that the Serb community will be so antagonised towards its Albanian neighbours that it will not survive.

Fourth, that Milosevic does not care in the least what happens to the Serb minority, any more than he cared about the fate of the Serbs of Krajina. What he cares about is that he stays in power in Belgrade.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
3 Hollin Hill House,
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.
February 26.

'Unsafe' IRA conviction

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean (letter, February 17) finds it difficult to see the justification for the Court of Appeal's recent quashing of the conviction of the alleged IRA terrorist, Nicholas Mullen, because he had been illegally deported from Zimbabwe rather than going through the proper extradition process.

The justification is simple. As Lord Griffiths pointed out in the House of Lords in *Bennett v Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court* (1993), the judiciary accept a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law that, inter alia, refuses to countenance behaviour threatening either basic human rights or the rule of law.

Perhaps another way of putting it is that once the courts allow the executive to stoop to this sort of misconduct, they are reducing themselves to the same level as the allegedly wicked men they are trying.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
4 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Mr Charles G. Blake

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean thinks that the Court of Appeal should not have allowed the appeal of Nicholas Mullen merely because of gross illegality by the Crown before the trial occurred. But this is the effect of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 which replaced the previous test of "unsafe or unsatisfactory" by the unitary test of "unsafe".

Before 1995 this would have been dealt with as an unsatisfactory verdict. There was nothing unfair about the trial process but, rather, the behaviour of the Crown was, according to the court, so bad as to require the sanction of quashing the conviction. That approach is now denied to the Court of Appeal. It had to force this case into the mould of "unsafe" when the safety of the conviction was *not* truly in issue.

The Home Secretary should look again at the 1995 Act. Whether illegality by the Crown can ever justify acquitting a defendant of a most serious crime is itself a matter to be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES G. BLAKE,
46 Linden Gardens, W4 2EH.
xdu57@dial.pipex.com
February 17.

Seeing red

From Mr D. A. Lycett

Sir, Rose-ringed parakeets may be glamorous to look at and may well "do no harm to anybody" (Weekend, February 20), but I can vouchsafe that they need "keeping an eye on". I have found them very destructive to the chestnut and winter-flowering prunus trees; also the blossom and red berries are nipped from the base of the cotoneaster shrub and let fall.

These used to be a lovely sight at the appropriate time of year but now, with the advent of these birds, I count myself lucky if in spring the chestnut has a quarter (probably less) of what it used to display.

These invaders should not be viewed through rose-tinted spectacles, no matter how colourful they are.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. LYCETT,
9 The Paddocks,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3AJ.
February 23.

Low gear urged in drive to euro

From Mr G. T. L. Rose

Sir, As an instinctive pro-European with over 40 years' involvement in voluntary work for the Conservatives, I was delighted to read the article by Mary Ann Sieghart, "Young, free and anti-single market" (February 26). I find it quite wrong that moderate members of the party such as myself should be labelled as right-wing xenophobes because we cannot support an early entry by the UK into economic and monetary union.

Should sterling be abandoned in favour of the euro, this country will have made an irreversible decision which will surely lead eventually to a federal Europe. This may come to be seen as the right economic answer within the next few years and, perhaps, in the longer term, also the right political answer. But the case is far from proven and I can only wish Mary Ann Sieghart, David Owen and their group every success in their campaign at least to delay the decision.

Yours etc,
G. TIMOTHY L. ROSE,
Ennerdale, Clifton,
Ashbourne DE6 2GR.
February 27.

From Mr Clive Webster

Sir, As one who trades with most EU countries and many in other continents, I believe that the euro, like the US dollar, should become an excellent vehicle for inter-European and international trade.

However, the concerns which were so well identified in your leader, "Five tests for Europe" [February 24; letters, February 25, 26, 27], could be largely overcome if only the European governments concerned had agreed to a longer and more flexible transition, with the euro running in tandem with national currencies.

Business leaders and politicians are becoming increasingly polarised in their views. Yet both sides have valid arguments which would be largely overcome if we were permitted a longer period of transition to prepare our economy for the single currency.

Voters in our referendum, when it comes, should not be presented with a "euro yes or no" question when they may well want to vote "yes" for the euro and "no" or "not yet" for abolition of the pound. It would therefore be better to delay the referendum, too.

The problems outlined in your leader are of immense consequence for all EU countries; but there is a sixth test, namely the intention of the EU to incorporate the former Eastern bloc countries in a very few years. Bearing in mind the impact that unification had, and still has, on the German economy and the mark, we should remain very cautious about abolishing the pound until those countries are fully integrated into the EU and performing to the Maastricht criteria.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE WEBSTER,
Clive Webster Limited,
Shoelands, Seale,
Farnham, Surrey GU10 1HL.
February 25.

From Mr B. E. Danton

Sir, The Danes initially voted against acceptance of the conditions set out in the Maastricht treaty. Subsequently these conditions were accepted after a second vote.

If, in the forthcoming referendum, the British people reject acceptance of the euro how many referenda will be necessary before, in the eyes of the Government, we "get it right"?

Yours sincerely,
B. E. DANTON,
20 Mere Close,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7OL.
brian.danton@mere-close.freeserve.co.uk
February 28.

From Mr Rupert Pepper

Sir, I see Mr Paddy Ashdown considers the Government has "crossed the Rubicon" with the Prime Minister's National Changeover Plan (report, February 24). Would this be the treacherous and megalomaniac act of Julius Caesar in 49BC, which plunged his powerful nation into years of civil wars and social and economic misery, earning its perpetrator a violent end within five years at the hands of his closest associates? Or does Mr Ashdown mean another Rubicon?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT PEPPER,
Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ.
February 24.

Sale of art fakes

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, While respecting David Gould's authority in the matter of fakes and original works of art (letter, February 22) I am not sure I can agree with his sweeping reference to much of modern art as "questionable rubbish".

What distinguishes the importance of any work of art, as I see it, lies not in the facility with which its technical style can be copied, but in less obvious and unscientific criteria. If it were otherwise the admired painstakingness of the Pre-Raphaelites would take precedence over the Impressionists and the uniqueness and invention of Matisse and Picasso among others.

Of course, the wheat needs to be sorted from the chaff in any age. Sadly, we find today a small handful of undeserving lightweights and their patrons receiving the bulk of the publicity. This should not detract from the many serious artistic developments in our time which will endure.

It is unfair to paint the majority of modern artists with the same brush.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PITTUCK,
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HL.
February 22.

Labour and tax

From Mr R. Mallace

Sir, In the leaflet enclosed with my 1999-2000 tax coding, the Inland Revenue explains that (to use its example) a 60-year-old married man with a total annual income of £5,500, who previously paid no tax, will now have to pay £43 tax because of changes to the married man's allowance.

This from a Government whose venality would make many dictators gasp in envy.

Yours sincerely,
R. MALLACE,
3 Hinton House Farm Cottages,
Byfield, Daventry,
Northamptonshire NN11 3QT.
mallace@mcmail.com
February 23.

Biographers' place

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, Where do biographers perch? This problem has exercised me for a number of years. It cropped up again today when I read in John Lowe's biography of John Sparrow (HarperCollins, 1998): "When John came to Winchester . . ." Other biographers speak of their subjects "coming to Oxford" and, a chapter or two later, "coming to Liverpool".

Do biographers actually seek lodging in these places before they pen the relevant paragraphs?

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON FISHER,
Craig Cottage,
Lower Street, Dittisham,
Nr Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0HY.
February 22.

Nuclear power

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Sir, Sir James Hann (letter, February 10) is quite right to call for an "authoritative, independent study" on the future civil uses of nuclear energy. The Royal Institute of International Affairs has already identified this need, and I act as chairman of a steering group to set up just such a study within the institute's energy and environment programme.

We propose to run a series of workshops focusing on the more controversial topics, including waste disposal, safety, proliferation, economic viability and competition with other forms of energy. It would bring participants from a wide range of backgrounds together in a neutral forum.

The aim of these workshops is not to reach agreement between the different points of view, probably an impossible task, but to achieve a better understanding of the possibilities, in the hope that such information would help governments and the public worldwide to understand the issues and so help the decision-making process.

We look forward to support, both financial and moral, from Sir James and others who want an impartial scrutiny of the vital issues involved.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN TICKELL,
The Royal Institute of
International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1Y 4LE.

From Sir Michael Moore, Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, What a good letter from Professor Ian Fells (February 10), advocating the virtue of nuclear power.

This institution was commissioned in June 1998 by the Engineering Council to produce views for the engineering profession and Government on energy for the 21st century. Nuclear energy is very much part of that equation.

However, we also need a balanced portfolio of primary fuels which recognises the UK's indigenous resources, coupled with the best available technologies, whether coal, gas, oil, nuclear or renewable energy.

How this can best be achieved in a market economy, which needs lowest-cost energy, has to be addressed by the politicians taking account of technical, economic and commercial advice.

We await action.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOORE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1H 9JJ.
m_moore@imeche.org.uk
February 10.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

End of 'subsidy' for classical music

From the Chief Executive of the Performing Right Society

Sir, The protest by Dr Donald Mitchell and five composers over our decision to cease subsidising live performances of classical music (letter, February 23) needs to be seen in context.

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1996 charged the Performing Right Society with making its distributions fairer, more accurate and more transparent. This has been achieved through an extensive two-year market research project which produced a statistically valid model for collecting performance information and for apportioning royalties more accurately than ever before.

We have therefore decided to remove all "hidden" special compensatory payments via royalty distributions, without value judgments which single out any particular genres of music. The phasing out of the classical music subsidy in its current form is in the same spirit of greater accuracy, fairness and transparency. Membership consultation has shown no majority support for a classical music subsidy.

The vast majority of our present subsidy to classical music is paid to music publishers and the estates of deceased composers, most of whom are not British. Far from the effect of its withdrawal being "devastating", only 11 per cent of it is paid to living British composers.

Although such subsidy will cease by 2002, we shall certainly continue supporting classical music, but in a more focused and transparent way.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTCHINSON,
Chief Executive,
Performing Right Society,
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.
February 22.

From Mr Trevor Glover and others

Sir, The implications of the unilateral decision by the PRS will affect contemporary classical music in this country for years to come. Such music involves major investment by publishers, especially in the preparation of performance materials for large orchestral forces, and there is usually a long period before a new classical work gains public recognition. These costs, often unrecouped for decades, are funded by the publishers' share of these very revenues, which this decision has cut almost in half.

This comes as the final straw, following a series of changes to PRS distribution methods in the last decade which have all had an adverse effect on classical earnings in the UK. For example, a typical performance of a 20-minute work in the Queen Elizabeth Hall which earned around £275 in 1994 currently earns £180; after removal of the subsidy, this sum will fall to around £90, shared between composer and publisher.

These are desperate days indeed for publishers, composers and their estates in Britain, and the PRS decision will be viewed with incredulity in the international world of music, which still regards the fundamental contribution of the UK publishing community to be a benchmark for the creation, encouragement and promotion of contemporary classical music. We urge the PRS board to suspend abolition of the subsidy.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR GLOVER,
Managing Director, Boosey & Hawkes,
CHRIS BUTLER,
Director, Novello & Co,
SALLY GROVES,
Head, Contemporary Music, Schott Ltd,
MARTIN KINGSBURY,
Director, Faber Music,
BEN NEWING,
Head, Business Affairs, Universal Edition,
JAMES RUSHTON,
Director, Chester Music,
295 Regent Street, W1R 8JH.
February 26.

Brit-spotting

From Lady Bowman

Sir, Mr M. D. Jervis asks if British women are as recognisable abroad as their male counterparts (letter, February 26; see also letters, January 29, February 6, 13, 18 and 20).

I can only report that, emerging from the sea at a trendy French beach having swum round from an adjoining cove, I was immediately addressed in English.

But could it have been because I was wearing a one-piece bathing-dress with a skirt?

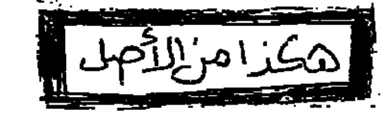
Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,
The Walled Garden,
Chamberlain Street,
Wells, Somerset BA5 2PE.
February 26.

From Mrs Carole Howman

Sir, Whilst holidaying in Paxos, I went for an early morning swim in the bay. Anchored about a quarter of a mile away was a magnificent yacht, which I swam towards and around.

When I had completed the circuit a guttural voice called out "Go away English woman!" Being from Yorkshire I proceeded to swim round three more times.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLE HOWMAN,
Hillbrow, Church Green,
Great Wymondley,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7ES.
February 26.



SOCIAL NEWS

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6 for the winners of The Queen's Award for Export, Technology and Environmental Achievement.

The Prince of Wales will launch the Welsh Beef Promotion Campaign at the Celtic Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, Newport, South Wales, at 11.45

The Princess Royal will visit Bath University Sports Training Village, Bath, Somerset, at 2.30.

Princess Alexandra will attend a reception at the Victoria and Albert Museum London, SW7, 7.15.

Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve

The life barony conferred upon Miss Onora Sylvia O'Neill has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve, of The Braid in the County of Antrim.

Devon Lieutenancy

The Earl of Iddesleigh has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon.

Greater Manchester Lieutenancy

Mr L. Duncan Lawton has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

Sir William Mars Jones

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir William Mars-Jones will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel at 5pm today.

Gerald Corcoran

A requiem mass will be said for the repose of the soul of Gerald Stuart Corcoran at 10.30am on Wednesday, April 14, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, W1.

Reception

English-Speaking Union

A reception to honour the work of Professor and Mrs H.R. Duhme was held on Saturday at Dartmouth House. Mr William Glover was the host at the reunion of the recipients of the English-Speaking Union Bell Tower Scholarship.

Birthdays today

Lady Rose Windsor is 19 today. Other birthdays include:

Mr Harry Belafonte, singer and actor, 72; Mr David Broome, show jumper, 59; Mr Douglas Bunn, founder, All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, 71; Sir Robert Calderwood, former chief executive, Strathclyde Regional Council, 67; Miss Florence Calvert, former Principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 87; Mr Leslie Christie, trade unionist, 60; Mr David Comins, Rector, Glasgow Academy, 51; Mr Roger Daltrey, actor and rock singer, 55; Mr Andrew Faulds, former MP and actor, 76; Sir Allan Green, QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, 81; Sir Michael Kerr, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 78; Commodore Timothy Laurence, 44; Professor James Lister, paediatric surgeon, 76; Mr John Napier, stage designer, 55; Commandant Dame Nancy Robertson, former director, WRNS, 90; Major-General P.T. Tower, 82; Sir Gerald Whent, former non-executive chairman, Vodafone, 72.

Service dinners

33rd (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment (V)

Major-General I.O.J. Sprackling, Master of Signals, attended a dinner of the 33rd (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held on Saturday in Liverpool which marked the retirement of Brigadier I.R.D. Shapter as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel R.J. Steed presided. Professor P. Toyne, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool John Moore's University, was installed as the new Honorary Colonel.

Gulf War Jaguar Pilots Association

Group Captain G.W. Pixton presided at a Gulf War memorial dinner of the Gulf War Jaguar Pilots Association held on Saturday at the Bosworth Hall Hotel, Market Bosworth. Squadron Leader David Waddington was the guest of honour.

Korean Veterans

The address for those wishing information about the British Korean Veterans Association reunion is 38 Spring Street, London W2 1JA.

The night sky in March

By Michael J. Hendrie
Astronomy Correspondent

MERCURY should be visible in the west after sunset, the -0.5 magnitude inner planet setting nearly two hours after the Sun on the 3rd when it will be at greatest eastern elongation (18 degrees). It will fade quickly as it closes with the Sun to pass between the Earth and Sun at inferior conjunction on the 19th. Then a morning object until late May, it will remain too close to the Sun for observation.

Venus is a brilliant evening star of -3.9 magnitude, not setting until 22h in late March. This evening apparition lasts until early August. Crescent Moon to the south on the 19th. Saturn to the south on the 20th.

Mars is in Libra rising by 21h in late March. During the month it brightens from 0 to -1 magnitude. Its eastward or direct motion through Libra will be halted on the 18th when it reaches a stationary point and it will then begin to move westwards against the stars (retrograde motion) as it approaches opposition on 24th April. The Moon will be to the north on the 6th-7th. Jupiter is around -2.0 magnitude and moves from Pisces into Cetus in March. It will be low in the west on the 1st and become lost in evening twilight by mid-month as it approaches conjunction with the Sun on 1st April.

Saturn is 0.7 magnitude and moves from Pisces to Cetus in late March, setting only 2 hours after the Sun by the 31st. Moon near by on the 19th. Uranus is in Capricornus rising about 04h by the 31st. Moon to the north on the 14th. Neptune is also in Capricornus rising about 40 minutes before Uranus. Moon to the north on the 13th-14th. Both planets require optical aid, Uranus being 5.7 and Neptune 7.9 magnitude.

The Moon: Full Moon 2d 07h, Last quarter 10d 09h, New Moon 17d 19h, First quarter 24d 10h and Full Moon 31d 23h. There are two full Moons (not five as was stated inadvertently last month) this March as there were in January. The bright star Regulus in Leo will be near the Moon on the 1st and again on the 28th. The waxing crescent Moon will be near Aldebaran on the 22nd.

The Spring Equinox, when the Sun crosses the equator from south to north, occurs at 21d 02h.

Early March presents an opportunity to see all the naked eye planets before midnight. Nearest the western horizon will be Mercury, always seen in twilight from our latitude. Jupiter is brighter than Mercury and a little higher in the sky. Both planets will be in bright twilight but hard to see after the 10th. Above Jupiter and unmistakably bright is Venus and above Venus will be Saturn. Venus will overtake Saturn on the 20th (minimum separation about 3 degrees) and Saturn will then lie below Venus, in turn to move into twilight in early April.

The remaining naked eye planet, Mars, can be found in the eastern sky but not until after 23h (11pm) when it rises to the south of east. Mars is in Libra, a constellation without bright stars, but it should be readily identifiable by its reddish hue and brightness.

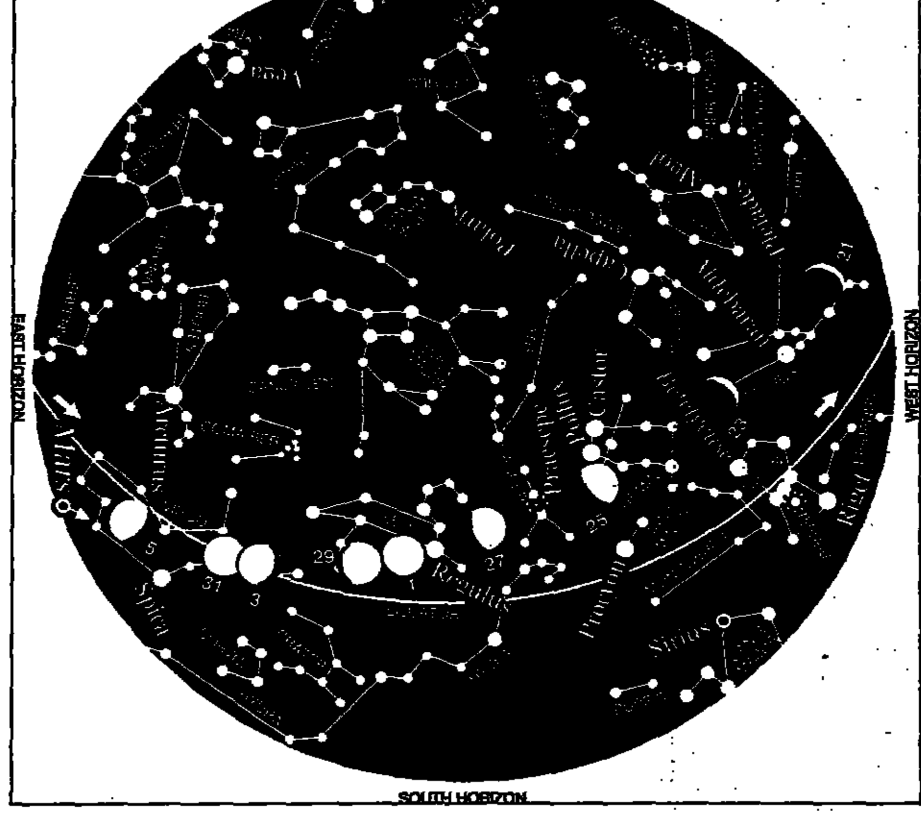
Given good weather the naked eye observer has a chance of seeing Mercury during periods lasting about ten days that occur only three or four times each year. Mercury will be seen only near the eastern (morning) or western (evening) horizons in twilight and will never be high in the sky during darkness. The sky near the horizon needs to be very clear and free from obstructions.

Opportunities to see Mercury this year occur in the evening again in June-July (when the sky will be very bright) and in the morning in December. It is unlikely that any stars will be seen near it because of the bright sky so naming the constellation it is in is usually of little help. One can only advise a search near the horizon after sunset or before sunrise. As it gets darker it will become more noticeable but it will also get lower and become fainter, so it may not be seen for more than 20 minutes or so. the reverse is true in the morning. Binoculars can help one to find it after which it often can be seen quite easily without them. Having found it the first evening (or morning) fix it in relation to a tree or other ground object.

Venus is so bright that finding it is no problem. Like Mercury it is never in the south late at night, though it can set only shortly before midnight, as in May this year. In a good year like 1999 it appears on the charts (April-June) as an evening object.

Because Mars's orbit is not much larger than the Earth's it takes a long time for the Earth to overtake it. The effect is for Mars to be visible for more than a year and then be missing from the night sky for much of the next year. This year it is at opposition (closest to the Sun) in April after which it will remain in the evening sky into 2000.

Jupiter and Saturn move in much larger orbits. Jupiter is brighter than any star and easily found but Saturn can be mistaken for one.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h 11pm at the beginning, 22h (10pm) in the middle, and 21h (9pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian, the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

Dinner

10 King's Bench Walk

A dinner in honour of Mr Winston Roddick, QC, on his appointment as Counsel General to the National Assembly of Wales, was given by his chambers, 10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, at the Mermaid Event & Conference Centre, on Saturday, February 27, 1999. The toast was proposed by Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, Head of Chambers, and Mr Roddick responded. A painting was presented to Mr Roddick by Mr Georges Khayat, QC, Deputy Head of Chambers, on behalf of chambers. Mrs Roddick and Daniel and Helen Roddick were also present.

Among the guests were:
Previous heads of chambers, His Honour Bernard Lewis and Mrs Lewis, His Honour Henry Palmer and Mrs Palmer, and Judge Kenneth Zucker, QC, and Mrs Zucker; Lord Hooson, QC, and Lady Hooson, Sir Maldwyn and Lady Thomas, Judge Prosser, QC, and Mrs Prosser, Judge Monro-Davies, QC, Mr Gerald Moriaty, QC, and Mrs Moriaty, Mr Michael Beresford-West, QC, Mr Joseph Harper, QC, Mr Michael Douglas, QC, and Mr and Mrs John Evans.

Epsom College

There will be a Reunion this year for all Old Epsomians who entered the College between 1950 and 1962 on Saturday, May 1, starting with tours of the school at 2.00pm and ending with a buffet supper at 6.45pm. There has already been a good response. Anyone requiring details should write to the Headmaster. The correct date for Founder's Day this year is Saturday, May 29.

The next Old Epsomian dinner will be held on Saturday, October 23, 1999, at Epsom College.

Sherborne School for Girls

The Prince of Wales has accepted an invitation to the Centenary Celebrations at Sherborne School for Girls on Thursday, April 29, 1999. Old Girls are invited to attend whether or not they are members of the Old Girls Union. Details can be found in the latest Journal and will be put on the Web site (www.sherborne.com). Those who intend to take part should inform the Secretary, Sherborne School for Girls by March 15. They will then be sent tickets, information and the day's programme.

Nature notes

THE first coots are building their reedy nests at the edges of lakes. They stand tall on them and look out for rivals. When the males fight they are very fierce, sometimes forcing their enemy's head under water and drowning him. Their relatives, the moorhens, have also started sparring vigorously.

Starlings are singing around their nest holes in trees and gutters: among the babbling notes of their song, a clear whistle sometimes stands out. Skylarks are singing steadily over the fields and moors: they stay above the patch of corn or heather in which they will nest, and swoop down to chase other skylarks out of it. In the woods, the gruff cooing of the stock doves can be heard. They are a bluer grey than the wood pigeons, and have a green, not a white, neck patch, but they are shyer than wood pigeons and harder to see.



The skylark

On sallow trees, silver catkins are opening, coated with bright yellow pollen. On horse-chestnut trees the sticky buds are getting very fat. Bright green leaves are sprouting on the wild rose bushes, where the remains of last year's hips hang like small black prunes. DJM

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.R. Barton and Miss A.J. Bowen
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Colonel and Mrs G.H. Barton, of Whatton, Nottinghamshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mrs J.R. Cobain, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr A.C. Coutts-Britton and Miss A.M. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Alasdair Calum, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Coutts-Britton, of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium, and Alison Michelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hughes, of Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Mr K.N.E. Cox and Miss J.M. Bradish-Ellames
The engagement is announced between Kenneth, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cox, of Glendoick, Perthshire, and Jane, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Simon Bradish-Ellames, of North Warnborough, Hampshire.

Mr J.A. Harding and Miss L.B.E. Shelford
The engagement is announced between James Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Keith Harding, of Broadstairs, Kent, and Laura Beatrice Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Shelford, of Chailey, East Sussex.

Mr A.P.F. Pincott and Miss L.J. Friedberger
The engagement is announced between Andrew Pietro Fitch, younger son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Pincott, of Heathfield, East Sussex, and Lucinda Jane, younger daughter of Major-General and Mrs John Friedberger, of Whitchurch, Hampshire.

Mr G.W. Roberts and Miss R.S. Mason
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Mr T.J.B. Roberts, of Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorset, and Mrs P.M.G. Roberts, of Formby, Merseyside, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr L.R. Mason, of Hammersmith, London, and Mrs J.B. Finlay, of The Ross, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Mr D. King and Miss C.A. Spong
The engagement is announced between Darrell, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick King, of Spalding, Lincolnshire, and Claudine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Spong, of Loughton, Essex.

Mr W.J. Muschialli and Miss L.R.M. Newton
The engagement is announced between Warren, son of Mr J.W. Muschialli and Mrs J. Schroeter, of Melbourne, Australia, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Newton, of Manor Park, Ripe, East Sussex.

Mr C.J. Rotheroe and Miss L.N. Cannon Brookes
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Rotheroe, of Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mark Cannon Brookes, of Kensington, London.

Mr H.S. Shirley and Miss L.K.N. Durdin-Robertson
The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Major and Mrs John Shirley, of Ormly Hall, Ramsey, Isle of Man, and Lucy, youngest daughter of the late Rev and Mrs Lawrence Durdin-Robertson, of Huntington Castle, Co Wexford.

Mr I. Weatherby and Miss H.E. Pomeroy
The engagement is announced between Iain, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Weatherby, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Emily, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Pomeroy, of Osmington, Dorset.

Marriage

Mr M.A. du Ry van Beest Holle and Miss I.A. de Gier
The marriage took place on February 27, 1999, at All Saints Church, Ham, Wiltshire, between Mr Marc-Antoine du Ry van Beest Holle, son of Professor and Mrs Charles du Ry van Beest Holle, of Cape Town, and Miss Imke Anne de Gier, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hans de Gier, of Ham Manor, Ham, Wiltshire.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Caroline of Ansbach, consort of King George II, Ansbach, 1683; Sir Samuel Romilly, lawyer, London, 1747; Frederic Chopin, composer, Zelazowa Wola, Poland, 1810; Augustus Pugin, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1812; Lytton Strachey, writer, London, 1880; Roger Martin du Gard, novelist, Nobel laureate 1937, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1881; Oskar Kokoscha, painter, Pochlarn, Austria, 1886; Glenn Miller, band leader, Clarinda, Iowa, 1904; David Niven, actor, London, 1910; Robert Lowell, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1917.

DEATHS: Thomas Campion, musician and poet, London, 1620; George Herbert, clergyman and poet, Salisbury, 1633; Edward Moore, writer, London, 1575; George Grossmith, co-author of *The Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1912; Gabriele D'Annunzio, poet, dramatist and nationalist, Gardone Riviera, Italy, 1938; Jackie Coogan, actor, 1984.

Today is the Festival of St David, the patron saint of Wales.

The 20-month-old son of the American aviator Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped from his nursery, 1932.

Americans tested a hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll, 1954.

Archbishop Makarios ended his exile and returned to Cyprus, 1959.

The Soviet unmanned spacecraft *Venus 3* landed on Venus, 1966.

Leap-year anniversaries

BIRTHS: Ann Lee, founder of the American sect of Shakers, Manchester, 1736; Gioacchino Rossini, composer, Pesaro, Italy, 1792; John Philip Holland, submarine pioneer, Liscannor, Co Clare, 1840.

DEATHS: John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury 1583-1604, London, 1604; Edward Frederic Benson, novelist, London, 1940.

The St Gotthard Tunnel was completed, linking Switzerland and Italy, 1880.

Dutch scientists produced solid helium, 1908.

Pakistan became an Islamic republic, 1956.

Hugh Heffner opened the first Playboy Club in Chicago, 1960.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3.12 (NIV).

BIRTHS

AGNEW - On February 25th 1999 to James and Sarah (née Newman) a daughter, Eliza, a sister for Henry.

BIGGART - On 19th February 1999, to Elizabeth (née Webber) and James, a daughter, Iona Claire Molly.

BREWER - On February 25th to Sara (neé Godfrey) and Mark, a son, William Angus Godfrey, a brother for George and Archie.

FLOWER - On February 1st 1999 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Harriett (née Sinclair) and David, a son, Edward George Hugo, a brother for Alice.

JENNINGS - On 22nd February to Emma (née Burch) and Robin, a daughter, Rachel Katherine.

SHELDON - On February 18th 1999 to Amrita and Tim, a son, Michael Gervase Amrit, a brother for Eleanor.

THOMAS - On 24th February 1999 to Ann and Merlin, a son, Clement William.

DEATHS

BECKER - Rolf. On 24th February after a short illness. Aged 57 years. Guys Hospital Dental School 1960-1965. Memorial Service at 3.00 pm on Saturday 20th March at St Mary's Church, Burstall, Suffolk.

BOTTOMLEY - Felicité Elizabeth (née Lacy) on February 26th, peacefully at home. Beloved wife of the late Donald Bottomley, dearly loved and loving Mother of Jane and Prue and devoted Grandmother of James, Andrea, Daryl and Alexander. Funeral service to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday March 5th at 3pm.

CHABOREL - Elizabeth Vivien peacefully at home on February 21st. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium (Hide Hollow, Langney, Eastbourne) on Thursday March 4th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to RNLI (Eastbourne Lifeboat Station) c/o Serenity Funeral Directors, 43 South Street, Eastbourne BN21 4UT.

CODRINGTON - Barbara Mary. Peacefully at home on 25th February 1999 aged 73. Surrounded by her beloved husband John and her devoted children, Simon, Martin, Edward, Jane, Hugh, Vincent, Tessa, Kate, Giles and Lizzy and in the prayers of her sister Pegs, her three sons-in-law, six daughters-in-law and thirty two grandchildren. Requiem Mass at St Osmunds, Barnes on 5th March 1999 at 11 am. Private burial in Ampleforth. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Handicapped Childrens Pilgrimage Trust, 100A High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2RB.

CORKE - Marjory Hilda of Cheam, peacefully on 24th February aged 87 years, leaves husband Gilbert and daughters Linda and Hilary, who will sadly miss her. Funeral on Wednesday 3rd March at 3 pm Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead.

GOOD - Richard George Good OBE aged 94 years, peacefully in Aldbourne Nursing Home on February 26th. Much loved father of Tony, Dudley, David, Paul, Carole and Roger. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Bray-On-Thames on Monday March 8th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the National Dairymens' Benevolent Institution. All further information from Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, Newbury, Berks, tel 01635 522210. A memorial service will be held at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford on Friday April 16th at 11.30 am.

GOODWIN - David Captain R.N., of Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, peacefully in his sleep at sea in the West Indies on February 25th. Much loved husband of the late Aline and father of Michael and Peter. Thanksgiving at St Boniface Woodgreen to be arranged. Family flowers, donations to the Samaritans and enquiries c/o John Shering F.D. 34 Provost Street, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AY.

JONES - Donald Keith died peacefully on February 25th aged 68. Dearly loved husband of Barbara and devoted father of Amanda. Funeral Service at St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church, Leatherhead on Friday March 5th at 11.45am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill.

KOCHANSKI - On February 25th, peacefully in the Nuffield Hospital Tunbridge Wells Stanislaw Leon Kochanski. Service at St Augustine's Church, Tunbridge Wells, Tuesday March 2nd at 10.30 am, followed by interment in Southborough Cemetery. Flowers to Welham Jones Funeral Directors, 156 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1DJ. Tel: 01732 742400.

KONSTAM - Dr Helen Lorna, née Dunn, beloved wife of Dr Geoffrey LS Konstam deceased and mother of Gavin, Nigel and Gemma, on February 25th aged 97. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium Monday, March 8th at 2.45pm. Flowers to Kenyon's, 83 Westbourne Grove, W2.

LEE - Irene Norah (née Green). On Thursday 25th February died peacefully in her sleep at Oakcroft Nursing Home. Widow of Alfred Robert Lee, dearly loved mother of Rosemary and Jennifer and much loved Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. Funeral service at Woking Crematorium on Friday 5th March at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

MORGAN - On January 19th 1999 in an accident at Sidmouth, Melissa A. LL. Morgan B.A., Solicitor, dearest sweetest daughter of Evelyn A. LL. Morgan, and of Christine Bathurst; devoted and affectionate sister of Celia, and twin of the late James. Memorial service at Pirbright Village Church, Thursday 4th March, 3 pm. Family flowers only. Others please send donations to National Missing Persons Helpline, 284-6 Upper Richmond Road West, SW14 7JE.

OVERTON - Claire-Marie (née Binet), peacefully on 25th February 1999, in Switzerland after a long illness, surrounded by family. Funeral to take place in Switzerland on 1st March. Donations in lieu of flowers to Trinity Hospice, London SW4. Correspondence c/o Mrs J Mann, 23 Richmond Ave, London N1.

ROGERS - George Theodore on 24th February aged 79. Funeral Service at St Dunstans Church, Cheam, Surrey on Monday 8th March at 12 noon, all friends are warmly invited. No flowers please, retiring collection for the Bishop's Lent appeal. All enquiries to Truelove & Son Ltd., Cheam, tel: 0181-642 3300.

SHIRLEY - David Andrew late of Litmore Shaw, Ibstone peacefully in his sleep on Thursday February 25th. Beloved husband of Catherine and a much loved step father and step grand father. Funeral service to be held on Friday 5th March at All Saints Parish Church, Flore, Northants at 12 noon. Memorial service at Lincoln's Inn to be announced later.

SPICER - (née Gilroy) Sarah age 58. Died 25th February after a hunting accident. Adored wife of Julian, much loved mother of Charles and Alexandra, loving mother-in-law to Victoria and Humphrey and devoted grandmother to Lily. Funeral at 2.30pm on Friday 5th March at St Mary's Church, Pakenham, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Enquiries to L. Fulcher, Funeral Directors on 01284 754 049.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

THOMAS - Dr. William (Bill) always remembered. So loved and missed by us all Mary.

BIRTHDAYS

TARA Happy Birthday, you have been adopted in 1970. I never stopped loving you. From Montreal your first mother and your sisters. Ann Carrier 514 949 5268 or e-mail carmo@total.net

WANTED

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHY-1161C
CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Endowments of the Special Trustees for the Middlesex Hospital
Reference: DCP229771N88.
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at 2nd Floor, 140 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2BX, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting the reference above. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of Morgan Grenfell Quantitative Investment Limited and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the joint liquidators of the above company intend to make a distribution to the creditors of the company within four months from 9 April 1999. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the joint liquidators at KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before 9 April 1999 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details of claims, referred to above, must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.

Notice is also given that the intended distribution is the final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the joint liquidators' hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to shareholders absolutely.

Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

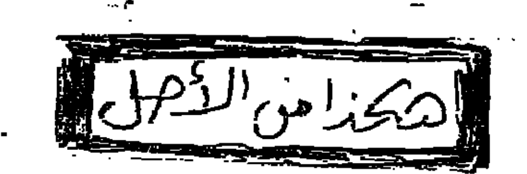
Dated 22 February 1999
S Tushaw
Joint Liquidator

R R Stiffall & Son Ltd
In Receivership
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, we, P S Dunn & M P Riley of Horwath Clark Whitehill & Co, Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, give notice that on 22 February 1999 we were appointed Joint Liquidators of R R Stiffall & Son Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 22nd April 1999 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned P S Dunn & M P Riley of Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, the joint Liquidators of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidators, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Dated: 22nd February 1999
P S Dunn & M P Riley, Joint Liquidators



OBITUARIES

LADY PANSY LAMB

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer, died on February 19 aged 94. She was born on May 18, 1904.

Daughter of an earl, bohemian, blue stocking and devoted fan of the Pope, Lady Pansy Lamb surprised everybody but herself. Painted almost continuously by her Bloomsbury husband, Henry Lamb, she retained the unselfconscious, anæmine charm of her youth into her nineties. Her sister-in-law, Christine, the Countess of Longford, described her, seventy years before, as "a blonde angel, her eyes lakes of blue, and her 'tints' — as the Victorians would have called them — like wild roses".

But ideas were always more important to Pansy than appearances. Perhaps this made her the perfect subject for Henry Lamb, 20 years her senior and already once married to a famous Bloomsbury model and free spirit, Euphemia. Lamb had been Lady Otteline Morrell's lover and Carrington's intimate, and in later years he entertained his nieces with stories of being chased round the rockery by Lytton Strachey, whose lust was constrained by his trousers falling round his knees.

Lady Pansy's feelings about her husband's Bloomsbury friends remain obscure, though she recently criticised their manners as "rather gauche". Nevertheless, at her 90th birthday party she fell into animated conversation with Frances Partridge.

England, by then, was only a holiday destination to her, for at the age of 75 her allegiance to Pope John Paul II prompted her to a new life in Rome, where she lived until her death.


Henry Lamb's last portrait of his wife, Lady Pansy, dating from 1947

Lady Margaret Pansy Felicia Lamb was the second child and eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Longford. (The family were ennobled by "that brute Cromwell", as John Betjamin put it.) Her younger brother, Frank Longford, inherited the earldom when his brother Edward died without an heir in 1961. Her younger sisters are the writers Lady Mary Clive, who published a memoir of her growing up, *Brought Up and Brought Out*, and Lady Violet Powell, who married the novelist Anthony Powell and also published a family memoir, *Five Out of Six*. The fourth sister, Lady Julia, was the mother of the Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*, Ferdinand Mount.

The Longfords were soldiers and sailors, and in 1915 the six children became fatherless when the Earl of Longford was killed leading a charge at Gallipoli, pipe in mouth. His last words were: "I wish you would stop ducking Fred. The men don't like it and it doesn't do any good." Family life continued as before, divided between England, Aston Hall in Oxfordshire, London and Ireland, where the family home boasted 130 rooms and extensive castellations and turrets, plus water garden, Chinese gardens and long walls of hothouses. Throughout her life Lady Pansy paid it an annual visit.

School was not comme il faut for the older two girls, and Pansy's famously encyclopaedic knowledge arose from a passion for books and a phenomenal memory. Her thirst for knowledge was certainly not satisfied by the world of London debutantes, where an earl's daughter was expected to find a husband in the Twenties, so the rebellious Pansy took a job in the office of the architect George Kennedy, through whom she met Henry Lamb. At that time she was sharing a flat with Evelyn Gardener, whom she introduced to Evelyn Waugh, which resulted in the disastrous union of she-Evelyn and he-Evelyn. While waiting in the countryside for their respective marriages to be arranged (Lamb needed a divorce first), Evelyn Waugh wrote *Decline and Fall* and Pansy began the first of two novels, *The Old Expedient*, which was eventually published bearing a cover drawing by Waugh.

The Lambs set up home at Coombe Bissett in Wiltshire in 1928 and as Anthony Powell said, "Henry threw himself into family life with the same sort of energy and enthusiasm he brought to everything he did." Soon they had three children, and because money was short (earls' daughters being on their own in that respect), Pansy continued her self-education by daily trips to Beaches second-hand bookshop just outside the Close in Salisbury, where she stood reading for hours. She had introduced her husband to a new circle of friends, including Lord David Cecil, Cecil Beaton, L. P. Hartley, Kenneth Clark and John Betjamen, who began a poem, "Oh the calm of Coombe Bissett is tranquil and deep . . ."

During the war Lamb was an official war artist and Pansy discovered one of several important heroes in her life, Charles de Gaulle. Two other heroic Charleses, Charles I and the French Roman Catholic poet Charles Péguy, inspired her to write books. Her translation of Peguy's *The Holy Innocence and other Poems* was published in 1956 and suggests that her later conversion to Catholicism was not the sudden decision that many supposed.

In 1960 Henry Lamb died, and Pansy moved in rather reduced circumstances to Notting Hill Gate in London, where she took in exotic, mostly Romanian lodgers, helped at a home for the blind and, in a team of academics under Humphrey House, worked at her most scholarly occupation, working on the letters of Dickens — another Charles — for the great Pilgrim Edition.

However, in 1981, aged 75, with her eyesight already failing, she announced that she was going to live in Rome so as to be near to Pope John Paul II, whose real name was Karol (Charles) Wojtyla. Shortly after arriving there, she was received into the Catholic Church, and she soon knew more about the Vatican's treasures than many lifelong residents.

Her flat, in the old quarter of Rome, was always ringing to the strains of Vatican Radio (in English, because she never mastered Italian — although she learnt Ancient Greek in her late seventies). The walls were covered with Henry Lambs, the shelves filled with signed Evelyn Waughs and the air was thick with smoke from the cigarettes she never abandoned.

Despite semi-blindness, she walked everywhere, an indomitable upright figure, proud to avoid death by Roman traffic. Several times a week she took up position under the portico of St Peter's as one of the official guides for English-speaking visitors. Three years ago she enjoyed a private audience with the Pope, for which she swapped her usual red and brown peaked cap for a black lace mantilla, showing the depth of her feeling for the man whose "spiritual energy" she so admired. Her companion on that occasion noted that "she reverenced the Pope like a humble courtier reverencing Louis XIV — as well as thoroughly enjoying the Vatican gossip".

Lady Pansy Lamb is survived by two daughters and a son.

CLIVE BUTLER

Clive Butler, consulting surgeon to the London Hospital, 1937-69, died on January 25 aged 94. He was born on April 8, 1904.

NO PASSENGER on the maiden voyage of the *Queen Mary* in 1936 could have guessed that the handsome young ship's surgeon, Clive Butler, would soon be world-famous for his work with the first antibiotics. He was to serve more than 30 years as a surgeon at the London Hospital, sought after especially in cases of infection.

Edward Clive Barber Butler's parents had both trained at the London (his father as a doctor, his mother as a nurse) and both had helped to care for "the Elephant Man" after his rescue by Sir Frederick Treves. Clive was head boy at Shrewsbury before entering the London Hospital Medical College in 1923. There he met Howard Florey, a young Australian microbiologist who was later to share the Nobel Prize for his work on penicillin.

Butler qualified in 1928 and was trained in surgery by the legendary Russell Howard. In his seven months on the *Queen Mary* he crossed the Atlantic 30 times, making many friends, including Clifford Naunton Morgan, the colorectal surgeon, and Nancy Harrison, the vivacious American beauty who became his wife.

Out of the blue a vacancy arose at the London Hospital when a surgeon pricked his finger during an operation, developed a rapidly spreading infection and died, in spite of amputation first of the finger, and then of his arm, a grim but typical example of infection in the days before antibiotics. Butler was called in to take charge of the "septic block".

In those crowded wards the worst cases were those of osteomyelitis — infection of the bone — which was then treated by releasing the pus from the marrow cavity by cutting a deep gutter along the length of the infected bone and encasing the whole limb in plaster. This, regardless of stench or maggots, was not changed for weeks, in the hope of avoiding the septicaemia which killed 25 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children.

Butler arrived in the wake of the discovery of the germ-killing effects of the red dye Prontosil, which was shown to be activated when it was changed in the body to sulphanilamide — which was easy to make and was not patented. It wrought miracles when infection was due to streptococcus, but not with staphylococcus, the usual cause of osteomyelitis. No one learnt faster than Butler, who reported 500 cases in a *Hunterian Lecture* in 1940.

Suddenly, in 1944, things changed when, thanks to his old friend Hugh Cairns, who was working with Florey in Oxford, Butler was given a limited supply of penicillin. None of his next 21 patients died, and he soon showed that it was safe to close the wound within 7-10 days. The months of stinking plaster were over.

Shortly after VE-Day the Government flew Butler and Alexander Fleming to Copenhagen to demonstrate the new methods. "Fleming was greeted with enormous enthusiasm," Butler wrote. "Little credit was given to the outstanding work done by Florey and his co-workers in Oxford during the war years. It is quite possible that without Florey's work, penicillin might never have been used on patients."

In the lulls between dealing with civilian casualties, Butler specialised in surgery of the large bowel and introduced new methods. He remained a general surgeon, but later developed a technique for removing cancers of the parotid gland, using an electric stimulator to protect the delicate branches of the facial nerve.

Rather shy, he was a courteous and popular teacher, with an engaging foible of humming *Lead, kindly light* when in difficulties with the sigmoidoscope. He was never ruffled, even when an explosion once singed his eyebrows. He became chairman of the Court of Examiners at the Royal College of Surgeons, and in retirement continued as curator of the museum in his old medical college, in which were lovingly preserved the relics of his parents' friend and patient, Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man.

He was divorced in 1957, but he is survived by his daughter and two sons.

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MITCHELL

Duncan Mitchell, OBE, Professor of Sociology at Exeter University, 1967-85, died on January 25 aged 77. He was born on June 5, 1921.

AS A student at the London School of Economics after the war, Duncan Mitchell's studies included a course in sociology under Karl Popper, a class that produced a profusion of future sociologists.

In 1954, Mitchell was appointed to take charge of sociology in the philosophy department at Exeter, where, as the junior academic partner, responsible for a new subject and eager to expand it, he was aware of the danger of becoming a cuckoo in the departmental nest. Fortunately, the needs of his subject and its growing number of students were accommodated. Extra staff were appointed, and Mitchell was made head of department in 1963, and Professor of Sociology in 1967. Among his publications are *Sociology: The Study of Social Systems* (1959) and *A Dictionary of Sociology* (1968), which was translated into some dozen languages.

Sociology at Exeter reflected Mitchell's eclecticism. Members of staff enjoyed academic reputations in very different areas, and a particularly successful innovation was the establishment of an Institute of Population Studies with Mitchell as director. His contribution to the university was recognised by his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, as deputy vice-chancellor, and as acting vice-chancellor, 1972-73.

His service to the community was also outstanding. In 1967 he was one of the founders of the Devon Community Housing Society, which he chaired for 30 years. At first it aimed to accommodate families, but it later concentrated on homes for the elderly, the physically disabled, and people with learning difficulties or needing nursing care. Now the owner of more than 60 properties, it has specialised in converting empty buildings, such as a disused village school, and extending them into groups of homes for community living.

Mitchell was also a member of Dartmoor Prison's board of visitors, and served as chairman of the English Board of Visitors. He was particularly concerned for mentally ill prisoners, whom he considered to be in the wrong place for their own sakes and those of other inmates and prison staff. His speeches on this problem were not always favourably received by the Home Office. Nevertheless, he was appointed OBE in 1984.

He was a committed Christian all his life, and a lay preacher. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 48 years, and by their son and daughter.

COLIN PURBROOK

Colin Purbrook, jazz pianist and double bass player, died in London on February 5, aged 62. He was born in Seaford, Sussex, on February 26, 1936.

ANY American jazz musician visiting Britain who wanted a sympathetic and knowledgeable accompanist needed to look no further than Colin Purbrook. The list of world-famous musicians he played for during the 1960s and 1970s is remarkable and included Benny Carter, Dexter Gordon and Eddie Lockjaw Davis.

On the London stage he spent some months in 1987 at the Donmar accompanying the Memphis-born singer Dee Dee Bridgewater in her title role as "Lady Day", and not long before that he had directed the British band that took over from the original American musicians in the London production of *One Mo' Time*.

Last year, having won one battle in his long war against cancer, he proved that his talents were undimmed when he appeared at the Brecon Festival and on Radio 3 with the all-star band Tenor Gladness, with the American saxophonists Scott Hamilton, Ken Peplowski and Harry Allen, and the veteran swing drummer Jake Hanna.

Although Purbrook was happy in almost all styles of traditional and mainstream jazz, he made his name in the forward-looking British modernist movement of the 1960s. Shortly after coming down from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, in 1957, he joined the iconoclastic clarinettist Sandy Brown. He began on bass but then switched to piano at a time when Brown's band was moving away from New Orleans revivalism to explore contemporary African high-life music and original compositions by the band's members.

After a couple of years in which he gathered experience as varied as playing in Kenny Ball's band and on the *Queen Mary*, he naturally fell in with the core of London's modern jazz musicians, in bands such as the Allan Ganley / Ronnie Ross Jazzmakers (with which he spent several short spells) and the quintet led by Ronnie Scott and the trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar. By 1961, Purbrook had formed a working partnership with the saxophonist Tony Coe, and they worked together often in the 1960s, later renewing that association in the 1980s on the set of *Lady Day*, in which Coe played the grouchy saxophonist who was the foil for Bridgewater's portrayal of Billie Holiday.

Purbrook's stage career began in 1963, during a spell as double bassist in Dudley Moore's trio, which provided the musical component of the revue *Beyond the Fringe*. The following year he played piano in the pioneering British modern jazz quintet jointly led by Don Rendell and Ian Carr, appearing on their album *Shades of Blue*. As the 1960s went on, he continued his association with Coe, both men appearing on a concert album cut in 1966 for the 77 label alongside the tenorist Tubby Hayes. By now he had begun working with the famous Americans, such as Benny Goodman, Chet Baker and Art Farmer.

In 1977 he became musical director of the show *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, which enjoyed an extended run at the Royalty Theatre. He subsequently worked in several other shows, including *Rent Party* in 1989.

During the 1970s and 1980s, he often led his own bands, varying in size from a trio to a sextet, and his trio was frequently used by touring American soloists as a regular rhythm section. The theatrical and jazz sides of his work were most happily combined in his long association with the singer Annie Ross, whom he accompanied on and off for more than 25 years, including residencies within the last three years at the Pizza on the Park in Knightsbridge. His most recent recordings include the critically acclaimed 1996 *Satin Album* with the tenor saxophonist Bobby Wellins.

His former wife and a son survive him.



SIR GORDON JONES

Sir Gordon Jones, Chairman of Yorkshire Water, 1983-96, died on January 31 aged 71. He was born on February 17, 1927.

QUIET, caring and fun, Sir Gordon Jones was the ideal man, as chairman of the Water Authorities Association, to lead the ten water and waste water companies of England and Wales to successful privatisation in 1989. The selling to the public of a mixed bag of large, medium and small companies was unprecedented. The management teams sometimes bickered in public, but Gordon Jones harnessed the interests of boards of directors, government, banks, lawyers and accountants, and the eventual flotation was a success — perhaps because all of the big merchant banks, lawyers and stockbrokers in the City were themselves representing one or more of the companies or underwriting the offer.

Jones also continued as chairman of Yorkshire Water, where efficiency continued to improve. He was knighted in 1990.

However, the company's reputation was dented in 1995, when an exceptional drought struck Yorkshire, raising the unacceptable prospect of restricting supply and using standpipes (though it never came to that). Hounded by an efficient Labour Opposition, the company was portayed as the worst in an unpopular industry. Jones was the first to admit that its presentation had been poor.

Gordon Jones was born in Swansea, to which he returned when he retired in 1996. After Swansea University, and four years in the Royal Navy, he joined the British Iron and Steel Research Association, working on raw materials and energy planning. At Esso Petroleum, which he joined in 1960, he became head of British industry sales, before returning to the steel industry as managing director of Rotherhain Tinsley Steel and Firth Vickers. In 1979 he became a director of T W Ward plc. He was a member of the Government's advisory committee on business and the environment, 1993-96.

He was also a governor of Leeds University, and his interest in young people's education and training was reflected by his honorary fellowship of the University College of Swansea, and an honorary DSC from Bradford University.

He married Gloria Melville in 1951. She survives him, along with their daughter and twin sons.

Latest wills

Roland Walter (Tiny) **Rowland**, principal shareholder in Lonrho, ex-newspaper owner, a citizen of Zimbabwe, of London SW1, left estate valued at £25,973,190 net.

Michael James **Bentine**, writer, comedian and actor, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, left estate valued at £258,668 net.

Lord Soper, of London NW11, left estate valued at £200,000 net.

The Countess of Oxford and Asquith, of Mells, Frome, Somerset, left estate valued at £609,202 net.

Arthur Claude **Rye**, of New Malden, Surrey, left estate valued at £7,123,919 net.

John Henry **Bower**, of Canwick, Lincoln, left estate valued at £2,648,653 net.

Helen Mary **Longsdon**, of Llanvair Kilgeddin, Abergavenny, left estate valued at £2,471,859 net.

Leslie Frederick **Williams**, of London W5, left estate valued at £2,273,141 net.

David Lewis **Baldwin**, of Tywyn, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,264,305 net.

Pamela Anne **Chivers**, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,092,109 net.
She left £500 each to Repton School, Repton Boys Club, St Faith's School, Cambridge, Trinity Hall, Cambridge, RAF Benevolent Fund, RSPCA, RSPB, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, NSPCC, Barnardo's, Save the Children Fund and WWF Fund UK.

Sidney Vincent **Cope**, of Colyton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,039,286 net.

Richard Alan James **Emery**, of Shoeburyness, Essex, left estate valued at £1,149,724 net.

Roy Neil **Gibb**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,340,036 net.

Phoebe Agnes Malet **Hambleton**, of Hyssington, Montgomery, left estate valued at £1,098,447 net.

Malcolm Reginald **Hardiman**, of Wokingham, left estate valued at £1,688,131 net.

Christopher Charles **Harley**, of Bucknell, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,098,031 net.
He left £5,000 to Brampton Bryan Parochial Church Council; £500 to Brampton Bryan Parish Hall Committee.

John **Lawson**, of Prestbury, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £865,917 net.

Lister **Lea**, retired farmer, of West Charleton, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,086,803 net.

Richard **Marx**, dental surgeon, of South Stoke, Bath, left estate valued at £1,028,160 net.

Edith Mary **Meyers**, of Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,029,600 net.
She left £10,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.
Elizabeth Steinfeld, of Hampstead, London NW3, left estate valued at £1,304,571 net.

Eva Mary **Sunley**, of Truro, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,603,059 net.
She left £10,000 to the Lions Club of Truro; £5,000 to Devon and Cornwall Autistic Community Trust; plus her residuary estate to the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation.

Adeline Constance **Tristram**, of Eastbourne, left estate valued at £1,029,254 net.
She left £10,000 to both the RNLI and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Lewis John **Turner**, of Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,562,461 net.

Margaret Hamilton **Turner**, of Keighley, West Yorks, left estate valued at £1,324,905 net.

Michael Waller Beaufort Craig **Waller**, of London SW10, left estate valued at £1,297,646 net. He left £1,000 to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers.

ON THIS DAY

March 1, 1958

The Carl Rosa Opera Company, which did much to popularise opera in Britain, was again in difficulties, but by no means finished.

OPERA MERGER PROPOSED

THE Sadler's Wells Trust has proposed that its opera company should be amalgamated with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. If the proposal is adopted, a single company will serve both the provinces and Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The proposal was made known yesterday to the staff of Sadler's Wells Theatre in a statement from Mr James Smith, chairman of the Sadler's Wells Trust. It was read by the director, Mr Norman Tucker, who later announced that, because of the proposed new policy, he had resigned, together with Mr Stephen Arlen, general manager of the theatre, and Mr Alexander Gibson, the recently appointed music director. The resignations would take effect in July, at the end of the present contract period.

It was also announced that Mr John Wyckham, production manager and stage director of the opera company, had resigned. In his statement, Mr Smith said:

For some time past it has been apparent that the continually rising cost of presenting opera in this country might cause some curtailment of the activities of both the Carl Rosa and the Sadler's Wells companies, both of which receive substantial subsidies from the Arts Council. But the subsidies now available are insufficient to maintain two companies at their present levels and it does not appear possible for them to proceed as separate organizations after the early summer of 1958 when existing contracts end.

In order to provide the widest possible coverage both in London and the country, the proposal is now being considered that the Sadler's Wells and Carl Rosa organizations should combine to set up a new trust representing both bodies. The new trust, with one opera company, would undertake a tour in the autumn of 1958 and a London season in the spring of 1959, followed by a further provincial tour.

Should times prove more propitious in the future it may be possible to return to the position in which two companies can again be maintained.

The proposal means that one orchestra, one chorus, and one set of principals will be employed; it is to be presumed that these forces will be drawn from both companies, but many musicians will be without work as a result of the amalgamation.

Representatives of Equity and of the Musicians' Union said that their organizations would resist to the utmost the proposed changes.

In the statement announcing their resignations, Mr Tucker, Mr Arlen, and Mr Gibson expressed the view that the proposed new policy "means the cessation of the policy pursued by Sadler's Wells since its opening in 1931, operating primarily as a metropolitan house and, since the war, in a complementary capacity to Covent Garden."

The statement went on: "Moreover, in spite of the re-employment that may be offered in individual cases, it involves the disbanding of the opera company which has been carefully built up over a long period and whose prestige has never stood higher than at the present time."

NEWS

Bootleggers force Brown's hand

Gordon Brown is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling. The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue .... Page 1

Euro challenge for Blair

David Owen and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the frontline to present a new challenge to the Government's move towards the euro. They will join forces in a new group billed as pro-European .... Pages 1, 8

Rape trials row

Baroness Jay, Minister for Women, was last night at the centre of a row over Government plans to clamp down on women's sexual history being admitted as evidence in rape trials .... Page 2

Straw returns

The Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry .... Page 1

Palace dismayed

Buckingham Palace is dismayed by the limited role that the Queen will play in the opening of the Scottish Parliament .... Page 1

Playboys

The first lifestyle magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and yachts .... Page 3

Boxing fan killed

A boxing fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulancemen as they tried to save the man's life .... Page 5

Broadcaster hurt

The award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van .. Page 6

Gibraltar siege

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work in Gibraltar and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions are threatening their livelihoods .... Page 9

Endangered species

The coracle fishermen, who for generations have pliednintended victims of attempts to save the salmon .... Page 10

Israeli revenge

Israeli warplanes bombarded Hezbollah militia positions at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon after Israel's senior commander in south Lebanon was killedby a roadside bomb .... Page 11

Nigeria crisis

Nigeria's fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy was in jeopardy after Olu Falae refused to accept the victory of his opponent for the presidency .... Page 12

Tough talking

With tensions mounting in relations, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Chinese hosts will engage in tough talking today .... Page 13

Kosovo fighting

Serb forces massed in their thousands in and around Kosovo as the province was engulfed in new fighting that threatens to shatter the fragile peace process. Page 14

£6,200 is the cost of old jokes

Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Lord Snooty is the only relic to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction for £6,200, the largest sum paid for a comic in Britain .... Page 1



Cartoonist puts his stamp on Jenner

A SPECIAL millennium stamp by *The Times* cartoonist Peter Brookes, portraying the discovery of vaccination by Edward Jenner is to go on sale tomorrow (Mark Henderson writes).

The design, which will feature on the 20p second class stamp, is released as part of the *Patient's Tale*, the third issue in the Royal Mail's millennium collection. Entitled *Dr Jenner's Vaccination*, it tells the 18th century story of how the Gloucestershire doctor discovered a medical advance which has saved millions of lives worldwide.

Dr Jenner noticed that the milkmaids in his village who had caught cowpox never went on to contract the deadly smallpox virus, one of the biggest killers of the day. He took vaccine (derived from the Latin vacca) from a cowpox sore and injected it into a boy, who developed an immunity to smallpox.

The Brookes design incorporates all the elements of the story. Dr Jenner and James Phipps, his patient, are portrayed in silhouette in the markings of a cow, which is milked by an immune maid. It also evokes his popular *Nature Notes* series, which is published in *The Times* on Saturdays. Mr Brookes said: "It's a great honour for a mere cartoonist. It's wonderful to be involved as there is a great galaxy of artists, illustrators and designers working on this project."

Mirror Bid: Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, took the next step in its bid to acquire the Mirror Group by tabling an offer worth more than £1 billion over the weekend .... Page 48

Mobile Float: Cable & Wireless is considering a flotation of One-2-One .... Page 48

Comeback: Stephen Hinchcliffe, the disgraced Sheffield businessmen who has been charged with ten counts of corruption by the Serious Fraud Office, is trying to revive his career by making children's cartoons .... Page 48

Rate Cut: The City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when it concludes its monthly monetary policy committee later this week .... Page 48

Hidden hero: In a quiet corner of Guildford, Surrey, lives Henk Huffener, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Grace Bradberry interviewed him .... Page 15

Fabulously happening: Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Lisa Armstrong reports .... Pages 16, 17

Flower power: Susan MacDonald offers adice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday .... Page 40

Thumbs down: London's Gate Theatre is celebrating its 20th birthday with a new production of Cervantes's *Don Quixote* that is totally inept and incoherent, writes Benedict Nightingale .... Page 18

Road show: The touring stage version of the television hit *Goodness Gracious Me* proves that Sanjeev Bhaskar and his colleagues are mainstream talents .... Page 18

Hollywood hero: Jeff Bridges has never bothered to pursue the life of a real movie star, all he cares about is making interesting movies like *Arlington Road* .... Page 19

Concert report: The Russian pianist Nikolai Demidenko plays a programme of Beethoven at the Barbican in London but the atmosphere is tense .... Page 19

Football: Arsenal's charge towards the FA Carling Premiership title suffered a setback when a late equaliser by Hamann deprived them of a win at Newcastle United ... Page 25

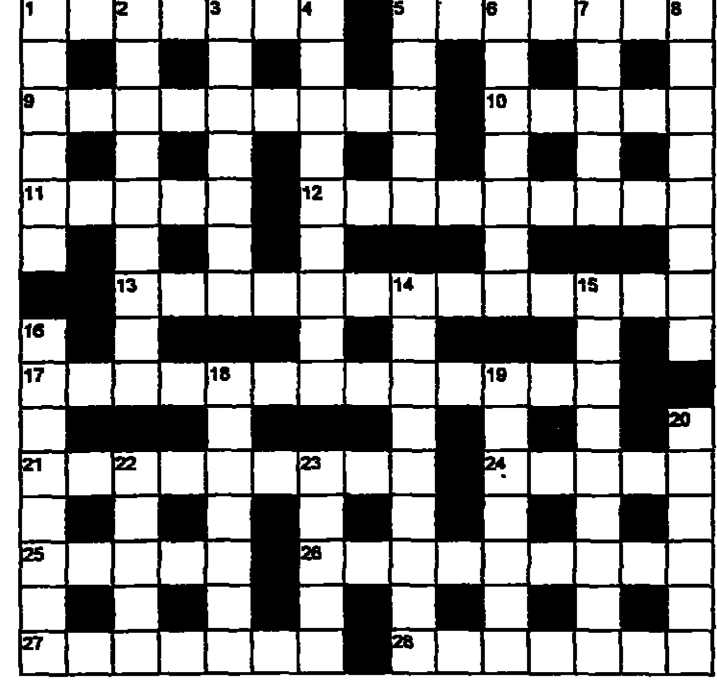
Motor rallying: Colin McRae justified his surprising switch to Ford by capturing the Safari Rally, the team's first victory in the event for 20 years .... Page 26

Tennis: Greg Rusedski failed at the final hurdle in the Guardian Direct tournament. Richard Krajicek emerging the winner .... Page 27

Ice hockey: Manchester Storm are harbouring similar European ambitions to their footballing counterparts in the city after securing the Sekonda Superleague title. Page 27

Rugby union: Two tries by Inga Tuigamala helped Newcastle overcome Saracens, the holders, in their Cup quarter-final .... Page 34

Racing: Richard Dunwoody gave a timely reminder of his talents in winning the Racing Post Chase at Kempton and can now look forward to the Cheltenham Festival with renewed confidence ... Page 37



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
Meet Michael Corder the choreographer who is going to make it all happen for the Royal Ballet

■ **LAW**
Why copyright law could dog any imitators of *One Man and his Dog*

1, 13, 7, 15, 38, 43. Bonus: 47

There were no outright winners and Wednesday's jackpot will be an estimated £13 million rollover. Thirteen tickets won £177,637 each for five numbers and the bonus; 913 won £1,580 for five numbers; 51,885 won £61 for four and 1,018,247 won £10 for three.

Preview: *Tribe UK* offers insight into the lives of young people (BBC2, 11.15pm). **Review:** *The Builders* raises the docusoap to an unexplored level of pointlessness, *says* Paul Hoggart .... Pages 46, 47

The Commons interest

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. A serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. Page 21

Good Europeans

New Europe, the group that launches today to put the case against joining EMU, provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none .... Page 21

Take the high road

The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour; but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity .... Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I do not know whether the millennium prayer is more offensive for its clumsiness, for the meretricious use of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vacuity of meaning with intellectual dishonesty .... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Failure to join the euro in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for Blair's strategy and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy .... Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one .... Page 20

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer; **Colin Purbrook**, jazz pianist; **Clive Butler**, surgeon; **Duncan Mitchell**, sociology professor; **Sir Gordon Jones**, **Yorkshire Water** .... Page 23

Nato and Kosovo; National Changeover Plan; end of subsidy for live classical music; art fakes; nuclear power; rose-ringed parakeets .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,039

ACROSS
1 False claim he made to be tsar (7).
5 *Fail to go off and produce a report* (7).
9 Reckless prosecutor about to take on junior counsel (9).
10 A president's first dance (5).
11 Arab's son mainly employed in sound reproduction (5).
12 Northern state nominates new assembly (9).
13 Certain people display shock after crew's dance (9,4).
17 Remain neutral, or restrain the criminal? (3,2,3,5).
21 Stimulating foretaste of cooked tripe and peas (9).
24 Wrongfully seize old city, captured by American power (5).
25 Mature insect a long way back in the past (5).
26 Idle talk's holding back queen with company, sire (9).
27 *First-class teachers rejected outside one's country* (7).
28 A couple of unknowns agent disposed of in Asian river (7).

DOWN
1 Unassuming, as Mussorgsky was (6).
2 Back of chair used in clubs, luxurious and well-padded (9).
3 Put in fish that's going rotten (7).
4 *Pet need of striker in union? (4-5).*
5 Fruit produced by bishops, perhaps, outside see (5).
6 Cardinal takes drink with military men (7).
7 Northerner's home game – soldier turned up first (5).
8 Like taped music some remember as a blessing (8).
14 Money collected from party member without hesitation (9).
15 River worker secures share of profits as performer (9).
16 Spies act strangely, retreating from reality (8).
18 One joining alliance with partners in communities (7).
19 Time in special cell – but one isn't charged (7).
20 Excellent food brought in for each person (6).
22 *Seafood pie originally served fresh before noon* (5).
23 Goody-goody appearing in main drawing (5).

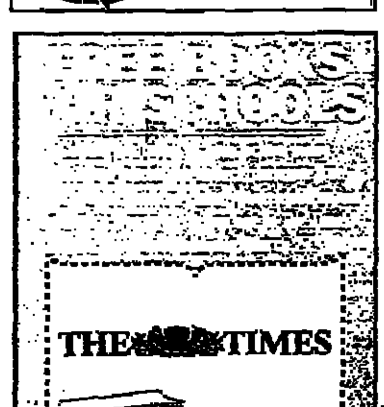
Times Two Crossword, page 48

The *solution* of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,038 will appear *next* Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

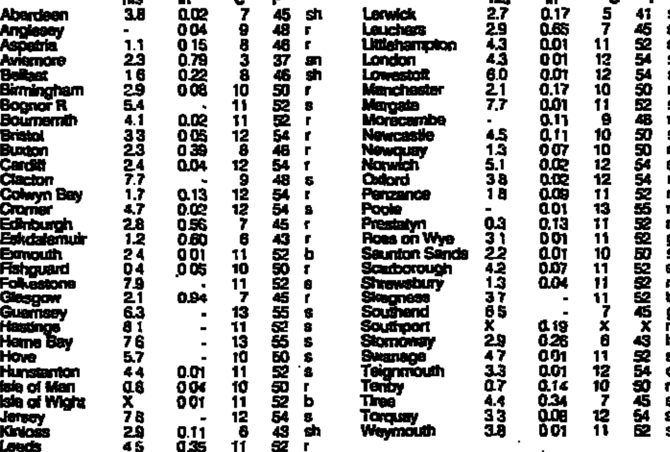
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Sun rises: 6.46 am — Sun sets: 5.39 pm
Moon sets: 6.32 am — Moon rises: 4.51 pm
Full moon: tomorrow

London 5.39 pm to 6.44 am
Bristol 5.50 pm to 6.54 am
Edinburgh 5.46 pm to 7.03 am
Manchester 5.46 pm to 6.56 am
Penzance 6.03 pm to 7.05 am



☐ **London:** mild but wet and windy. Rain will ease but return later. Fresh SW winds. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **S E England, Central S England:** wet and windy but mild. Heavy morning rain will ease for a *while but return later.* Fresh SW winds, locally strong at first near Channel coast. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands:** a dull, wet start but heavy rain will soon ease. Brighter and drier in the afternoon with occasional sunny spells and only a small chance of a shower or two. Steadier rain returning after dark. Moderate W winds. Max 13C (55F).
☐ **Channel Islands, S W England, S Wales:** mild but overcast and wet with hill and coastal fog patches. Becoming dry for a while in the afternoon but rain will return. Windy with a fresh to strong SW breeze. Max 12C (54F).
☐ **N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, N E England, N Ireland:** a cloudy, wet start. *Overnight rain clearing then mild* and occasionally brighter but there is still the chance of a few showers. Steadier rain returning later. Moderate W winds. Max 8-11C (46-52F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** chance of a shower or two but becoming mostly dry with spells of sunshine breaking through. Moderate W to NW winds. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** occasional *bright or sunny spells and scattered showers,* with snow only over the inland peaks. Moderate, locally fresh, W to NW winds, decreasing SW light to moderate later. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Central Highlands, N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** brief bright or sunny spells and scattered showers, snow over the hilltops and the mountains. Fresh W to NW winds, easing later. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **Irish Republic:** cloudy, rain at times in south. Wind W, quite strong in south. Max 10C (50F).
☐ **Outlook:** mild but wet in most areas.



24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.8	0.02	7	45	sh	Lerwick	2.7	0.17	5	41	sl
Anglesey	-	0.04	9	48	r	Leuchars	2.9	0.65	7	45	s
Aspatria	1.1	0.15	8	46	r	Littlehampton	4.3	0.01	11	52	sh
Aviemore	2.3	0.79	3	37	sn	London	4.3	0.01	12	54	s
Belfast	1.6	0.22	8	46	sh	Lowestoft	6.0	0.01	12	54	sh
Birmingham	2.9	0.06	10	50	r	Manchester	2.1	0.17	10	50	r
Bognor R	5.4	-	11	52	s	Margate	7.7	0.01	11	52	s
Bournemth	4.1	0.02	11	52	r	Morecambe	-	0.11	9	48	r
Bristol	3.3	0.05	12	54	r	Newcastle	4.5	0.11	10	50	s
Buxton	2.3	0.39	8	46	r	Newquay	1.3	0.07	10	50	r
Cardiff	2.4	0.04	12	54	r	Norwich	5.1	0.02	12	54	s
Clacton	7.7	-	9	48	s	Oxford	3.8	0.02	12	54	r
Colwyn Bay	1.7	0.13	12	54	r	Penzance	1.8	0.09	11	52	r
Cromer	4.7	0.02	12	54	s	Poole	-	0.01	13	55	r
Edinburgh	2.8	0.56	7	45	r	Prestatyn	0.3	0.13	11	52	r
Eskdalemuir	1.2	0.60	6	43	r	Ross on Wye	3.1	0.01	11	52	g
Exmouth	2.4	0.01	11	52	b	Saunton Sands	2.2	0.01	10	50	s
Fishguard	0.4	0.05	10	50	r	Scarborough	4.2	0.07	11	52	s
Folkestone	7.9	-	11	52	s	Shrewsbury	1.3	0.04	11	52	r
Glasgow	2.1	0.94	7	45	r	Skegness	3.7	-	11	52	b
Guernsey	6.3	-	13	55	s	Southend	6.5	-	7	45	g
Hastings	8.1	-	11	52	s	Southport	X	0.19	X	X	r
Herne Bay	7.6	-	13	55	s	Stornoway	2.9	0.26	6	43	h
Hove	5.7	-	10	50	s	Swanage	4.7	0.01	11	52	s
Hunstanton	4.4	0.01	11	52	s	Teignmouth	3.3	0.01	12	54	d
Isle of Man	0.8	0.04	10	50	r	Tenby	0.7	0.14	10	50	r
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	11	52	b	Tiree	4.4	0.34	7	45	sh
Jersey	7.8	-	12	54	s	Torquay	3.3	0.08	12	54	s
Kinloss	2.9	0.11	6	43	sh	Weymouth	3.8	0.01	11	52	s
Leeds	4.5	0.35	11	52	r						

Yesterday's extremes: highest day temp, Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day temp, Glascarnoch, Highland, 3C (37F); rainfall, Strathallan, Perth and Kinross, 1.53in; sunshine, Hastings, East Sussex, 8.1hrs

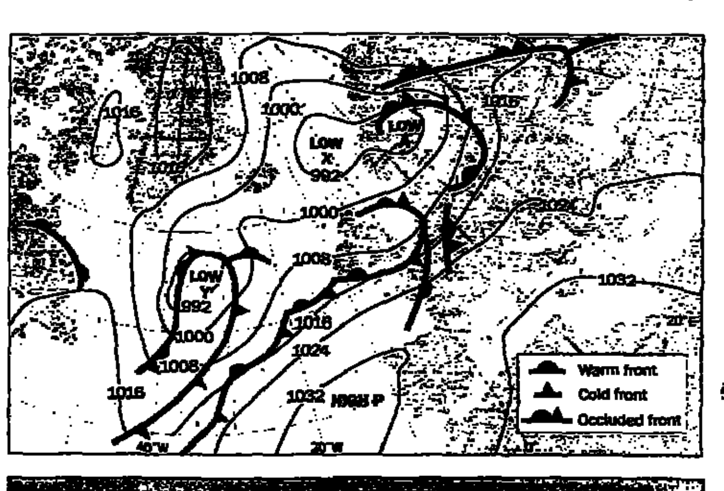


Ajaccio	14	57	f	Cologne	10	50	f	Madrid	13	55	f	Rome	13	55	f
Akrotiri	16	61	f	C'phagn	5	41	c	Majorca	17	63	s	Rovr'sway	10	50	f
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Corfu	14	57	f	Malaga	13	55	r	Salzburg	3	37	f
Algiers	21	70	s	Dublin	9	48	s	Malta	18	64	s	S Frisco	9	48	s
Amst'dm	8	46	r	Dubrovnik	10	50	f	Melbourne	19	66	f	Santiago	31	88	s
Athens	12	54	r	Faro	14	57	c	Mexico C	20	68	f	S Paulo	X		
Bahrain	21	70	c	Florence	10	50	s	Miami	23	73	s	Seoul	9	48	f
Bangkok	33	91	s	Frankfurt	7	45	c	Milan	12	54	s	Singapore	31	88	f
Barbados	X			Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	1	34	s	Stockholm	-2	28	sn
Barcelona	14	57	c	Geneva	4	39	f	Moscow	-1	30	c	Strasb'rg	7	45	s
Beijing	10	50	s	Gibraltar	10	50	r	Munich	7	45	s	Sydney	19	66	r
Beirut	15	59	f	Helsinki	-2	28	f	Nairobi	29	84	s	Tangier	10	50	r
Belgrade	8	46	s	Hong K	21	70	f	Naples	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Berlin	5	41	c	Innsbruck	3	37	s	N Delhi	22	72	s	Tenerife	21	70	f
Bermuda	16	61	r	Istanbul	9	48	f	N York	6	43	s	Tokyo	12	54	f
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jeddah	29	84	f	Nice	14	57	s	Toronto	5	41	s
Bordeaux	9	48	c	Jo'burg	27	81	f	Oslo	1	34	fg	Tunis	19	66	s
Brussels	7	45	c	L Palmas	20	68	f	Paris	4	39	c	Valencia	17	63	s
Budapest	6	43	s	Le Touquet	7	45	f	Perth	33	91	f	Vancver	6	43	f
B Aires	28	82	f	Lisbon	15	59	s	Prague	2	36	r	Venice	9	48	s
Cairo	18	64	s	Locarno	11	52	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	sn	Vienna	5	41	r
Cape Tn	18	64	r	L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	15	59	s	Warsaw	0	32	sn
Chicago	5	41	f	Luxembg	7	45	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Washt'on	8	46	s
Ch'church	16	61	X	Luxor	25	77	s	Riyadh	26	79	f	Wellngton	22	72	X

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday. X = not available



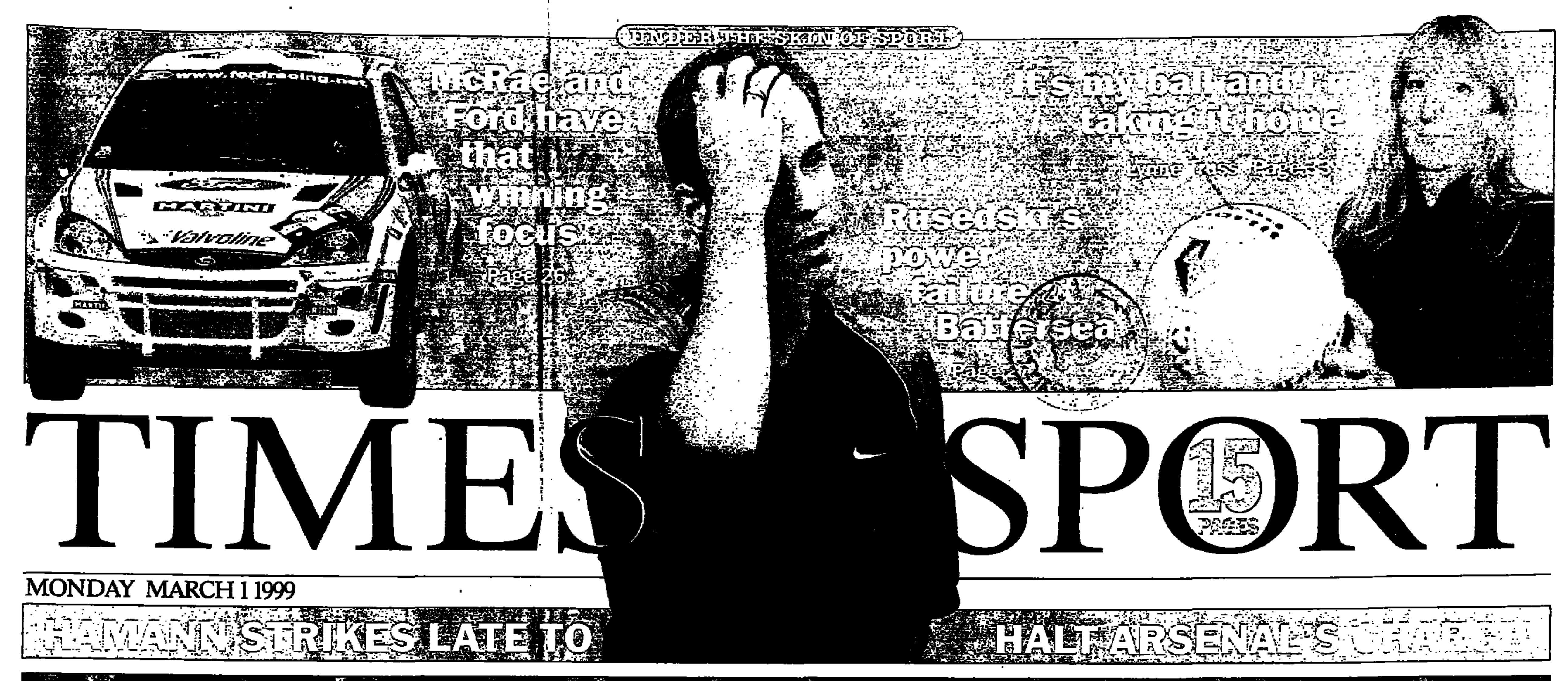
Changes to the chart below from noon: low A moves slowly east and fills; low X will fill in situ; low Y runs east and deepens; high P is slow moving with little pressure change



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	0:44	4.1	12:55	4.3	Liverpool	10:45	9.3	23:08	9.2
Avonmouth	6:39	12.9	19:05	13.1	London Bridge	1:06	6.9	13:32	7.1
Belfast	10:27	3.5	23:04	3.3	Lowestoft	9:10	2.4	21:03	2.5
Cardiff	6:25	11.9	18:51	12.1	Margate	11:49	4.5	-	-
Devonport	5:22	5.3	17:51	5.2	Milford Haven	5:41	6.7	18:03	6.7
Dover	10:33	6.4	22:51	6.5	Newquay	4:33	6.7	16:55	6.7
Dublin	11:12	4.3	23:33	4.0	Oban	5:27	3.8	17:51	3.8
Falmouth	4:53	5.1	17:22	5.0	Penzance	4:03	5.4	16:25	5.3
Greenock	11:56	3.4	-	-	Portland	6:06	1.9	18:49	1.8
Harwich	11:21	3.9	23:40	3.8	Portsmouth	10:39	4.5	23:06	4.5
Holyhead	9:51	5.6	22:15	5.4	Shoreham	10:39	6.0	23:10	6.2
Hull (Albert D)	5:48	8.3	17:58	8.5	Southampton	10:22	4.4	22:51	4.5
Ilfracombe	5:26	9.0	17:50	9.0	Swansea	5:45	12.1	18:08	12.1
King's Lynn	5:46	6.2	17:54	6.4	Tees	3:10	9.7	15:25	9.9
Leith	1:57	5.3	14:18	5.5	Walton-On-Naze	11:18	4.1	23:36	4.1

All times GMT. Heights in metres.





TIMES SPORT

15 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

HAMANN STRIKES LATE TO HALT ARSENAL'S CHARGE



Hamann withstands the challenge of Adams, the Arsenal central defender, to power Newcastle United's equalising goal past Seaman at St James' Park yesterday and add another twist to the FA Carling Premiership title race. Photograph: John Giles

Le Saux faces trial by television

GRAEME LE SAUX, Chelsea's England defender, could face trial by television after referee Paul Durkin admitted that he would have sent him off had he seen his alleged elbow attack on Robbie Fowler. Durkin missed the off-the-ball incident during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and will not be including it in his report to the Football Association.

The official, from Portland, has since seen the clash on television, in which Le Saux appeared to elbow Fowler on the back of the head. "I can assure everyone that if I had seen it Le Saux would have been sent off," he said. "But neither I nor my assistant referee saw it. What happens now is down to the FA."

The FA has used video evidence against players before, such as when John Hartson kicked Eyal Berkovic during a training session at West Ham United, and Le Saux could face disciplinary action.

The BBC will provide the FA with a tape of the incident if asked. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "It is an option while there is also the fourth official's match report to consider." The incident was the culmination of a running battle between Le Saux and the Liverpool striker.

Pressure starts to take toll on champions

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THEY fled the Tyneside gloom as quickly as they could last night. All but Dennis Bergkamp hightailed it out of St James' Park and headed for the airport and their flight back to London. Some of them moaned half-heartedly about the pitch, horribly heavy and devilishly rutted, but every Arsenal player mourned a more important piece of lost ground.

In other circumstances, perhaps, a hard-fought 1-1 draw with a Newcastle United side that is threatening a modest resurgence might not have been cause for despondency for Arsène Wenger and his side, but such is the pace that Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal have been setting at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as the chase for the title approaches its climax that the two points the champions dropped yesterday, courtesy of a late equaliser by Dietmar Hamann, acquired the air of a significant setback.



Wenger: knows his team cannot afford mistakes

United, who rested three players in advance of their European Cup quarter-final first leg with Internazionale on Wednesday, squeezed past the desperate challenge of Southampton at Old Trafford to record their eighth win in ten unbeaten league games and maintain their four-point lead at the top of the table.

Chelsea, who seemed to have been clinging on to their own challenge like a boxer beginning to feel the effect of too many punches, defied those who doubt them with some invigorating football as they outplayed Liverpool at Stamford Bridge. Those results heaped the pressure on Arsenal, the only one of the trio who have no European fixtures to dilute their commitment, to continue their own remarkable recent sequence of results in the North East and stay in touch.

They seemed to have succeeded when Nicolas Anelka, who is so full of confidence that he seems to think he is going to score every time he gets the ball, claimed his sixth goal in four league games nine minutes before half-time, when he capitalised on successive mistakes by Steve Howey and Nikos Dabizas to take the ball round Shay Given and slide it calmly into an open net. In the second half, though, the intensity of the struggle to keep pace with United and Chelsea seemed to take its toll.

Arsenal had conceded only two goals in nine Premiership games before yesterday, but the third condemned them to a nervous finish and a seven-point deficit to make up on United.

"We were in front and we could have finished the game off in the first half," Wenger said. "In the second half, we did not seem to come out enough and take the game to them. We did not really have the feeling that Newcastle were dangerous, but it was as if we were content with 1-0 and we lost our offensive fluency.

"We have dropped two points but we know that it is not easy to get three points here. Of course, we knew before the game that it would be important to win, especially with the way the other results have gone this weekend. But there is still a long way to go and everybody else will drop points, too.

"The only problem we have now is that we, more than the other two, cannot afford any mistakes. We are still in a good position and we have a game in hand, but it will be a hard battle."

Arsenal's uncharacteristic surrender of a lead cast a shadow over what had been until then a superbly disciplined, resolute performance. Martin Keown and Tony Adams, the heart of a defence that has conceded only 13 goals all season, were heartless in the subjugation of Alan Shearer, unyielding in their domination of the England centre forward. Patrick Vieira, too, was outstanding at the hub of the side, leading the way in the pressing that jolted the home team out of its commendable attempt to play neat, passing football.

Despite the greater flamboyance of United and Chelsea, the suspicion remains that Arsenal have the best balance, the most resilience for the 11-game run-in. The combination of their near-unbreachable defence and the explosiveness of the partnership between Bergkamp and Anelka is close to irresistible.

Once, perhaps, Ruud Gullit might have been in the thick of it himself, but when he was asked for his opinion on the latest twist in the title race, the Newcastle manager offered a wistful smile. "I have other sorrows now," he said. "Too many worries to be interested in that." Like the joys of others, Gullit spread his sorrow around on Tyneside last night.

Match report, page 29
Inter showdown, page 31

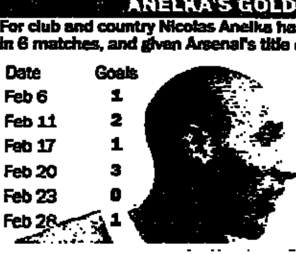
UNITED IN THE TITLE CHASE

Since their last defeat - at home to Middlesbrough on December 19 - Manchester United have set a fierce pace at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, taking 26 points out of a possible 30. Arsenal and Chelsea have tried their best to match them over that 10-match period but Aston Villa have found the going too tough and have dropped out of contention.

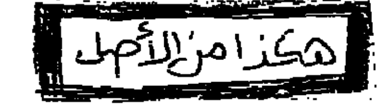
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MANCHESTER UNITED	28	16	9	3	63	29	57
(Last 10 matches)		8	2	0	27	6	26
CHELSEA	27	14	11	2	41	22	53
(Last 10 matches)		6	3	1	13	5	21
ARSENAL	27	13	11	3	35	13	50
(Last 10 matches)		7	3	0	18	3	24
ASTON VILLA	27	12	8	7	38	31	44
(Last 10 matches)		3	2	5	11	14	11

ANELKA'S GOLDEN MONTH

For club and country Nicolas Anelka has enjoyed February, scoring 8 goals in 6 matches, and given Arsenal's title charge a cutting edge.



Date	Goals	Match
Feb 6	1	West Ham 0 Arsenal 4
Feb 11	2	England 0 France 2
Feb 17	1	Manchester United 1 Arsenal 1
Feb 20	3	Arsenal 5 Leicester 0
Feb 23	0	Arsenal 2 Sheffield Utd 1
Feb 28	1	Newcastle 1 Arsenal 1



SNOOKER

Higgins on course in title defence

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS, winner of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge last year, was on course to make a successful title defence when he established a 6-2 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan at the Assembly Rooms in Derby yesterday.

Since making his career breakthrough by becoming Grand Prix champion at the same venue in October 1994, Higgins has matured into a fearsome opponent. He has figured in 26 finals, lifted 13 trophies and amassed over £1.7million in prize-money.

This maturity came to the fore when, earlier this month, he recovered from an 8-6 deficit to defeat Ken Doherty 10-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley and again on Saturday when he edged Doherty 6-5 in the semi-finals.

"I want to win every tournament I enter these days," Higgins said. "It becomes a habit and you become greedy for more."

O'Sullivan, beaten 9-8 by Higgins in the final last year, entered the mid-session interval at 2-2, but generally lacked the sharpness he displayed in beating Jimmy White 6-4 in their semi-final.

A run of 65 enabled Higgins to win the fifth frame and he moved into a 4-2 lead with a 62 break in the sixth. O'Sullivan did not score a point in the seventh, but should have salvaged the eighth.

After fluking a snooker with just the colours remaining, he missed the yellow and Higgins cleared to pink to carry a commanding advantage into the final session.

SEMI-FINALS: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J White (Eng) 6-4, J Higgins (Scot) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-5

☐ Kelly Fisher, of Pontefract, completed a 4-1 victory over Julie Gillespie in the final of the national women's championship with a break of 53.

MOTOR RALLYING

Ford bask in glow of McRae's victory

From Jeremy Hart in Nairobi

GRILLED under the Kenyan sun and dusted by the rooster tails of red Rift Valley dirt thrown up by a hundred cars, the African spectators watching the Safari Rally this weekend knew exactly who they wanted to win. "Mike Tyson" they sung in unison.

Wrong sport, right idea. The winner yesterday of the world's toughest rally was about as predictable as the pugilist.

Just a month after being branded pariahs for using an illegal water pump when their orange, blue and white Focus made its debut in Monte Carlo, Ford's humble pie was turned into champagne by rallying's £6 million man. Colin McRae romped across Kenya's rocky bush to win by a country mile and put a smile back on the faces of his team, as well as one of horror on those of his rivals.

"Colin is now my greatest threat for the championship," Tommi Makinen, the winner of five of the previous six rallies, said. "It is great for the sport to see Colin win, but worrying for everyone else." More so after Makinen, who finished second, was subsequently disqualified for receiving help when his Mitsubishi suffered a puncture on Friday. The championship leader claimed that the spectators were more of a hindrance than a help.

McRae's winning margin was seven minutes. At the start of the final leg, south of Nairobi, he was almost a quarter of an hour ahead of Makinen, the three-times world champion, but the Finn was on a charge and McRae had to nurse a sick engine through 200 miles of the harshest stages in the world.

"It was heart-in-the-mouth stuff," a twitchy Malcolm Wilson, whose M-Sport outfit in Cumbria has built the first winning Ford in 18 months, said. "We told Colin to take it easy and thankfully he and the car held on."

Already out before the final stages yesterday were Richard Burns, the early leader, whose Subaru ground to a halt with a broken suspension, and Freddy Loix, of Belgium, who crashed his Mitsubishi at 100mph. Little wonder that McRae was uncharacteristically apprehensive as he bounced over the last few jarring miles.

"I have never been as nervous going for a win," the Scot said. "I was listening out for every noise coming from the car. I only relaxed after the second-to-last stage. The final one was just a couple of kilometres long."

Within an hour of his first win for Ford, McRae was predicting possible victories in the Acropolis Rally in Greece in the summer and perhaps earlier. "The fact we brought a new car to the Safari, the hardest and toughest rally of all, and won is fantastic," McRae said. "Before we came out here I would have been surprised with a win, but now we have found the car is very strong and fast. Third in Sweden and first here shows that. The rest of the season is now looking good."

Beneficiaries of Makinen's disqualification were the three Toyota drivers, Didier Auriol, Carlos Sainz and Ian Duncan. It was Toyota who protested about Makinen's outside assistance in what was seen as revenge for the Finn escaping punishment in Australia last year, when he jumped the start of a stage and went on to win the title. "Tommi did something wrong and it is only fair to be punished for it," Sainz said.

Fifth was McRae's rookie team-mate, Petter Solberg, of Norway. Drafted in to replace the injured Thomas Radstrom, Solberg is regarded as a future champion.

For the second year in succession, SEAT gained the final championship point with sixth place for Harri Rovanpera.



McRae, left, and Nicky Grist, his co-driver, are weighed down by the spoils of victory

GOLF

Journeymen emerge to contest jackpot

From John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent in Carlsbad, California

WEEKEND golfers the world over were playing for money yesterday but none, not even those at Sunningdale where the bets sometimes resemble the loans to a third-world country, was playing for anything like as much money as Andrew Magee and Jeff Maggert. These two Americans were playing one another over 36 holes here at La Costa for the biggest golfing prize of their lives. Money talks at this resort, a hedonist's playground, but it has seldom talked as loudly as this.

At stake was $1 million, the prize for the winner of the final of the Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship. It is a huge amount of money and when the total purse of $5 million was announced it was expected that men such as Tiger Woods, David Duval or Ernie Els would feature in the final. But one of the striking features of this event that started last Wednesday with 64 of the leading 65 players in the world in the field, has been the culling of the seeds.

Maggert and Magee were two of the less fancied competitors. Magee has won four events in his 15-year professional career and Maggert, who turned professional in 1986, only one — and that in unusual circumstances. He took the 1993 Walt Disney Oldsmobile in Florida by holing out on a green that was illuminated by car headlights.

Maggert is 24th in the world rankings and Magee, who was born in Paris and has Scottish and Irish antecedents, fiftieth. They have one Ryder Cup appearance between them and neither has won a tournament for four years.

"One meeeeeeeellllionnn dolllllars," Magee, an engaging and laconic man, who chipped in to defeat John Huston in his semi-final, said. "I like money. Money is the motivating factor. I never strove to be No 1 in the world and if I'm not No 1 after 15 years out here, I'm probably never going to be."

Maggert gives the impression of being tightly in control of himself at all times. His golf swing is firm and he does not hit the ball all that far nor all that high. He overpowers courses by stealth rather than by the full frontal attack of, say, Greg Norman or Woods. "Winning the golf tournament is going to mean a lot more to me than the million dollars," Maggert, who was 35 nine days ago, said, even though he has never won anything like $1 million in an entire season, never mind one week.

Maggert was the first to strike in the final, parring the opening hole to win it and then making birdie at the second to take a two-hole lead, which was contrary to the evidence of the week. Maggert, usually a slow starter, was three down after 11 holes of his semi-final against Steve Pate and had slipped back to be two down to Magee after 18 holes of the final. He has invariably played the second nine strongly. He had won 24 holes in all before the final, 14 on the homeward nine, which he had played in ten under par.



Maggert: has won only one tournament on the US tour

"When you get down in matchplay, you have to go out and make something happen," Maggert said. "In strokeplay, three strokes behind is not a significant margin. I can make an eagle and the man I'm chasing can bogey. But in matchplay if you win a hole by one stroke or three strokes it doesn't matter. Three down is a significant margin."

RESULTS (all United States): Semi-finals: J Maggert bt S Pate 1 hole; A Magee bt J Huston 3 and 1.

Gauteng collapse against Cosker's spin

WANDERERS (final day of four): England A beat Gauteng by 10 wickets

CRICKET

From Thrasy Petropolous in Johannesburg

ENGLAND A travel to Cape Town today for the concluding match of their tour, against a strong President's XI at Newlands, with their unbeaten record reinforced by a comprehensive win over Gauteng yesterday.

Having been forced to follow-on on Saturday, Gauteng, with nine wickets remaining, still had hopes of saving the game. But once Adam Bacher had chipped Dean Cosker to mid-wicket and watched Darren Maddy take a good diving catch, they had no answer to the combination of Cosker's left-arm spin and the pace of Darren Thomas and collapsed from 140 for one to 211 all out against the Glamorgan pair. England A, needing only 27 to win, knocked off the runs in less than three overs and won with over a session to spare.

After Graeme Swann's spell of four wickets for one run to polish off the tail in the Gauteng first innings on Saturday, it was the turn of his spin partner, Cosker, to shine yesterday, completing a well deserved five-wicket haul as he exploited a wearing surface.

Andre Seymore and Derek Crookes, who are in South Africa's provisional squad of 19 for the World Cup, both fell to Cosker and the lower-order players were quickly swept aside.

☐ The England Under-19 team made a poor effort at scoring 221 from 43 overs to win the second one-day international at Westpac Trust Park and were bowled out for 136, allowing New Zealand to square the series.

Sri Lanka find third captain

SRI LANKA were compelled to name a replacement captain twice within a few hours yesterday after Arjuna Ranatunga was ruled out of this week's Asian Test championship match against Pakistan with a hamstring injury.

In Ranatunga's absence Aravinda de Silva was named to lead the side in the final round-robin Test starting in Lahore on Thursday. Then he himself had to withdraw through injury on the final day of the game against India in Colombo yesterday. Hashan Tillekeratne has now been named captain.

Sri Lanka will face Pakistan without many of their key players. Apart from Ranatunga and de Silva, Chaminda Vaas is being rested while Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan are injured.

Sachin Tendulkar scored his nineteenth Test century yesterday to remain unbeaten on 124 as India and Sri Lanka ground out a draw in the second match of the triangular series. India reached 306-5 after being 59-1 overnight.

Scoreboard, page 39

Cullinan's double celebration

A MAGNIFICENT career-best double century by Daryll Cullinan put South Africa in an impregnable position against New Zealand on the second day of the first Test in Auckland.

During nearly eleven hours of monumental concentration, Cullinan scored 246 not out, his seventh Test century, surpassing his previous best of 168, scored against West Indies last month.

Starting the day in the strong position of 245 for two, South Africa ended on 562 for five. It was their highest score against New Zealand, beating the 524 for eight they made at Wellington's Basin Reserve in 1953.

Cullinan, who hit 25 fours and two sixes, is just nine runs short of the highest individual innings against New Zealand by a South African — which belongs to Jackie McGlew — scored in the same 1953 game.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, decided not to declare and almost certainly plans to bat just once in the match. New Zealand must score 363 just to avoid the follow-on.

Atherton in line for World Cup recall

By Richard Hobson

MICHAEL ATHERTON, omitted from the recent Carlton & United one-day series in Australia, is expected to be recalled when England, the host country, become the first of the nine Test-playing nations to announce their World Cup squad today.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, has confirmed that a list of 15 names will be released at Lord's this morning.

With a series of fitness tests organised before departing via Pakistan for a triangular tournament in Sharjah on March 29 — effectively a World Cup warm-up — England can still make alterations before the selection deadline of March 31. This will be especially relevant for Atherton and Graham Thorpe, who have back problems.

It is unlikely that anybody outside the initial squad of 30 will feature in the tournament, which begins on May 14. The selection of Atherton, with a one-day international average of 35.11 from 54 games, would reflect the need for somebody who can complement the more aggressive batsmen.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **BOWLS:** Carol Ashby, who reached the women's world indoor singles final last April, took the England Under-31 singles title at Exeter, when she held off a tremendous fightback from Debbie Talbot to win the final, 21-20. Ashby, the 1998 senior champion, looked home and dry when she led 15-3 after 11 ends, but Talbot, who has been playing on the crown greens of Yorkshire since she was 12, but now plays on the flat at Barnsley Metrodome during winter, levelled the scores at 15-15, after 18. Talbot took the lead at 20-19, but Ashby coolly drew two perfect bowls on the 25th to edge home.

■ **BASKETBALL:** England's reputation as one of the most improving nations in Europe was reflected in the narrow margin of their defeat by Israel in the semi-finals of the European championship on Saturday (Nicholas Harling writes). "If the free throws had gone in, the game would have been ours," Laszlo Nemeth, the coach, said after Israel's 79-76 victory in Tel Aviv.

■ **GOLF:** Karrie Webb, of Australia, broke the US LPGA scoring record by three strokes yesterday when she finished on 262, 26 under par, to win the Australian Ladies Masters at the Royal Pines course, on the Gold Coast. Webb's score also bettered Laura Davies's European Tour record of 25 under par, set at the 1995 Irish Open in Dublin. Janice Moodie, of Scotland, finished second, ten shots behind Webb.

■ **BADMINTON:** Simon Archer and Joanne Goode produced their finest sequence of performances as a partnership and boosted their prospects for the All England championships in two weeks' time when they reached the final of the World Grand Prix championships in Brunei yesterday, only to fall 15-6, 15-9 against the South Koreans, Kim Dong Moon and Ra Kyung-Min.

■ **SAILING:** Marc Thiercelin, of France, was expected to reach the Falkland Islands yesterday on board *Somewhere*, his damaged Open 60, which was dismasted last week as he was leading the Around Alone Race (Edward Gorman writes). Thiercelin is determined to finish the race and plans are afoot to fly a new mast and sails out to the islands from France on Thursday.

TENNIS

Dubious tactics fail to bring down Krajicek

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD KRAJICEK could afford to be magnanimous. A tactic of dubious legitimacy from Greg Rusedski had transformed the Briton's fortunes to carry him within two points of the match before Krajicek, the better player throughout this final of the Guardian Direct Cup, regrouped to collect the sixteenth title of his career.

Rusedski himself would have savoured the quality of service that had swept Krajicek to the brink of victory. The hard part was complete. Krajicek merely had to hold serve, as he had throughout the match, for two more games to cash the $128,000 (£80,000) winner's cheque. But after another ace, his 26th of the match, took him to 15-0, Rusedski delved into a murky world.

In mock protestation, Rusedski summoned a ball-girl, Victoria Lister, to rally with Krajicek, the move plainly aimed at fracturing his opponent's concentration. It worked. Detained, to much crowd banter, by a 14-stroke rally, which was comfortably the longest in the match, Krajicek then resumed — only to lose ten of the next 11 points. The two players were thus locked together at 4-4, with every prospect of a tie-break to settle a match that was firmly in Krajicek's grasp.

Krajicek's expression, when he then trailed 30-0, on serve, in the next game, told a very different story to the one that he would tell at the contest's conclusion. In the end, Krajicek, who rallied to lead 6-5, broke a flagging Rusedski to win 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 after two hours and six minutes of largely uninspiring tennis.

There was a hint of sarcasm in his voice when, in the post-match interview on court, he said: "The next time Greg is serving me off the court I know what to do: just get a ball-girl to go out and play." Later, while suggesting that Rusedski might have indulged the crowd when he trailed 40-0, rather than 15-0, Krajicek blamed himself for the lapse in concentration. "It was a rookie mistake on my part," he said. "I thought it would be OK but I shouldn't have done it."

He also revealed that, in those difficult moments, he drew on the memory of his compatriot, Menno Oosting, who was killed in a car crash last week. "I wanted to win it for Menno so badly," he said. Krajicek, seeded No 4, attended Oosting's funeral in Son, near Eindhoven, on Saturday morning before returning to London to beat Thomas Johansson in the semi-finals.

Rusedski, for his part, made light of an incident which, in contrast to the smiling cartoon character he had portrayed all week, revealed a rare glimpse of his cold, calculating mind. "It is no big deal," he insisted. "I have had it happen to me before." However, when pressed to elaborate, the man with a memory bordering on encyclopaedic could not remember.

The gambit employed by Rusedski, seeded No 3, was far from unique. Boris Becker and Andre Agassi have used it, as did Goran Ivanisevic when hopelessly outserved by Mark Philippoussis in the 1997 final at Queen's.

Yet none resorted to it when their matches remained so delicately balanced. Rusedski's calculated act was almost certainly prompted by his unbridled desire to triumph before a domestic audience — just as he mistakenly insisted on playing Wimbledon with one sound ankle eight months ago.

There was no doubt that Krajicek deserved his victory. In the opening set he stayed with Rusedski during the Briton's only spell of dominant serving. The ensuing tie-break, the twelfth since they first squared up six years ago, was effectively settled when Krajicek conjured a stinging backhand cross-court pass to reach set point with his service to come.

From that point Rusedski appeared to labour. To his credit, he pulled the second set from the fire when, in another tie-break, Krajicek double-faulted when seemingly in the ascendant. Opportunities were precious; when they came, they were usually neutralised by heavy serving.

In that respect, Krajicek gave Rusedski a taste of his own medicine: he dished out 30 aces to the Briton's ten.

Rusedski and Tim Henman now head to California for the Newsweek Champions Cup, where Rusedski must defend 337 ranking points for reaching the final 12 months ago. Despite a stop-start first two months of the season, he has scrambled well; he should remain at No 10 when the world rankings are updated this morning. Henman is expected to stay at No 7.

Williams prevails over Mauresmo

SERENA WILLIAMS, of the United States, clinched her first WTA Tour title when she beat Amelie Mauresmo, of France, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6, in the Paris Open final. The 17-year-old was too strong for Mauresmo, who had won through after tough matches against Martina Hingis, the world No 1, and Dominique Van Roost, of Belgium.

PAUL HACKETT



Krajicek celebrates his hard-fought victory over Rusedski at Battersea yesterday

British pair double the interest

GREG RUSEDSKI gained a measure of compensation for his singles defeat by Richard Krajicek when he combined with Tim Henman to win the doubles event yesterday (Julian Muscat writes). The Great Britain pairing won in straight sets over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, and Byron Black, of Zimbabwe.

To the delight of a vocal London crowd, Rusedski and Henman captured Black's service midway through the opening set to secure the only break in the match. They then rallied from 3-6 down in the second-set tie-break to win five successive points, and with them, the match, 6-3, 7-6. It was the first time that the two Britons have contested a doubles tournament.

Rusedski and Henman used the event to prepare for Great Britain's Davis Cup tie, against the United States, in Birmingham in April, when they are expected to renew their alliance in the doubles rubber. Rusedski never dropped service over the four matches he and Henman played here.

Henman, whose service was captured just once, said: "I think we have surprised ourselves a little bit."

Kleinendorst standing by Storm troopers

Alan Lee reports on the ice hockey coach who has transformed the fortunes of Britain's biggest club

Manchester's significant minority, the increasing thousands for whom there is now more to sport than Old Trafford, will be relieved to learn that the eloquent American who has given them an arresting new identity intends to finish what he started. On the morning after the biggest and most influential club in British ice hockey officially became the best, Kurt Kleinendorst was already planning new horizons for Manchester Storm.

Europe is one challenge to conquer, the nurturing of British talent another, and Kleinendorst wants to stay and see it through. The Minnesotan arrived two years ago when playing inadequacy was threatening to vanquish the grand vision in Europe's largest indoor venue. His contract as coach and general manager has only a one-year option remaining, but Kleinendorst had words of reassurance for Storm's phenomenal support.

"I am happy and settled here and I have no plans to move on," he said yesterday. "There is a lot more to be achieved and it would take a special offer to get me away. I won't sort things out until the season is over, but I'm already thinking of next year."

Kleinendorst was at a Neil Diamond concert on Saturday night and emerged to hear that Cardiff Devils' forlorn pursuit of his team had ended with a 5-4 defeat at Bracknell. Manchester were champions of the Sekonda Superleague with three games still to play and the potentially dramatic fixture away to Cardiff last night was an irrelevance.

Manchester led the league virtually from first to last, losing only one of 19 home games within an otherwise fiercely competitive league. Their inheritance from Ayr, who have fallen heavily from their grand-slam exploits of a year ago, seldom seemed in doubt but, with the most lavish facility and enviable support and sponsorship, their triumph is a necessary landmark in the renaissance of the sport.

The league trophy will be presented before the home match with Nottingham on Thursday and the force of the Storm can be measured by the fact that more than 10,000 seats have already been sold. "It will be a special night," Kleinendorst said, "one of those occasions when you come out and think 'wow, that was really something'." One such night, three weeks ago, can now be seen to have secured the title for Manchester.

Their last home game with Cardiff came with the teams level on points and the Welsh club on a roll of seven wins. More than 12,000 saw Storm win 3-1, a victory as breathless as it was priceless. There are few men in this high-octane sport more inscrutable than Kleinendorst, but even his cool veneer collapsed with the last-minute goal that confirmed the win. "I don't show my feelings much but that was the pivotal night," he said. It was the first of six successive wins for Storm, the first in five defeats out of six for Cardiff.

Kleinendorst's assignment now is to exploit that support base and create a new generation of British players. Manchester have only one home-grown player on their staff, the supremely-gifted Jonathan Weaver, and Kleinendorst is not confident of finding more like him.

"Rinks would rather take money for public skating than encourage locals to learn hockey," he said. "We are doing all we can, with a junior section and a week-long hockey school in April, but it is the biggest challenge the game faces."

Scoring system beats Rolph

From Craig Lord in Gelsenkirchen

SUSAN ROLPH beat Katrin Meissner in both the 50 and 100 metres freestyle in their final outing of the winter World Cup season in Germany at the weekend, but lost the overall sprint freestyle title by an excruciating margin of two points yesterday.

In the end, the severity of Rolph's defeats compared with those suffered by Meissner during a maximum of six point-scoring rounds of the 12-event series mattered more than the fact that the British champion had won seven races to five victories for the German.

The pair met in three rounds, Rolph winning the 100 metres each time, Meissner winning the 50 metres twice but losing to Rolph on Saturday for the first time, 25.06sec to 25.23sec. That she beat Meissner, 26, over 50 metres gave Rolph, 20, a great sense of satisfaction and confirmed that her winter training programme is on course to produce the success she craves at the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next month.

Yesterday's win over 100 metres, in 54.33sec, just 0.06sec up on Meissner, further confirmed Rolph's superiority as a racer. However, two victories do not a World Cup title make, accounting for 20 points, against the 14 for two second places that took the German to 99 points, two clear of the Briton's tally.

The rivals had started the weekend eight points apart, a gap that owed much to the third and fourth place finishes that Rolph suffered behind Chinese swimmers while nursing a heavy cold in Beijing in January.

Meissner's worst finish was second place. In hindsight, Rolph would have been wiser to have opted to compete at the Canadian round of the cup instead of Beijing, but then World Cup rules do not allow entries to be switched.

As such, Rolph collected the £3,300 runner-up prize, against Meissner's £6,500, but considered herself the better swimmer beyond the eccentricities of the scoring system.

Slough fail to disrupt holder's march to title

RUSSELSHEIMER ruined Slough's hopes of breaking their stranglehold on the event when they cruised to their sixth successive title with a comfortable 7-1 win in the final of the European indoor championship in Glasgow yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

Although the result was emphatic, Slough turned in a gritty performance and were rarely outplayed. The difference was in the superior skill and quality of the finishing, with Russelsheimer racing to a 4-0 lead before Sarah Kelleher made it 4-1 at half-time.

Slough's tentative display in the semi-final against Siauliai, the Lithuanian champions — where they were forced to recover from a 2-0 deficit before winning 4-2 — did not bode well. With a squad of only nine fit players, the rigours of the tournament were bound to take their toll on the likes of Mandy Nicholson, Sue Chandler, Kelleher and Jane Smith, the competition's leading goalscorer.

Britta Becker, the Russelsheimer captain, scored twice along with, Tanja Dickenscheid.

In the women's National League premier division, Doncaster, who sit at the bottom of the table, caused the first big upset of the season when they defeated the depleted leaders, Ipswich. First-half goals by Sally Wright and Carol Savage and a penalty-corner goal six minutes from time, from Claire Ferguson, steered Doncaster to victory.

Reading use home advantage

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

READING responded to their home supporters yesterday by shooting their way to a 5-2 victory over Canterbury and a place in the semi-finals of the EHA Cup.

Humphries had cut Reading's lead to 3-1 early in the second half, but two quick goals by Briscoe and Pearn restored their superiority. The absence of Hacker, through injury, made a big difference to Canterbury who lacked inspiration in their midfield.

Before they could settle down they were two goals down, Barnes, from a short corner, and Loose scoring for Reading. Then, two minutes before the interval, their plight worsened when Slay converted a penalty stroke. A goal from a short corner by Mathews just before the end was small consolation for Canterbury.

Cannock, the holders, secured their place in the last four with a 4-3 home win over Lewes, of the first division. Edwards scored two goals from short corners for Cannock and Waters hit the target twice for Lewes from open play.

A goal by Thompson in the last minute from a short corner enabled Old Loughtonians to defeat Teddington 3-2. He had scored earlier to add to the first goal by Scott Smith. Wallis scored both goals for Teddington.

The final place in the semi-finals was taken by Southgate with an 8-3 victory over Hounslow, who trailed 7-1 at half-time. Grice was the only player to score twice for Southgate, but he could have been joined by Kwan Browne, of Trinidad, who missed a penalty stroke after scoring in the eighth minute.

It was a disappointing weekend for Canterbury who dropped from second to third position in the National League premier division after a 3-3 draw at home against Hounslow on Saturday.

Reading were out-gunned by Cannock, who, despite the absence of Crutchley, their injured sharp-shooter, went away with a 2-0 victory with goals by Pidcock and Hughes-Rowlands.

FA Carling Premiership: Charlton frustrated by inability to steal a march on bottom club

Kidd faces up to novel predicament



WEST HAM UNITED 2
BLACKBURN ROVERS 0

by Nick Szczepanik

WHEN Brian Kidd, the Blackburn Rovers manager, was the assistant manager at Old Trafford, he knew that the buck stopped with Alex Ferguson. Now Kidd is a manager in his own right, and it is up to him to deal with all the usual problems of injury, suspension and loss of form, as well as one that Ferguson did not have to face — the fear of relegation.

On Saturday, Blackburn dropped back into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership, and their third defeat in 11 league games since Kidd took over contained some worrying elements. Against a West Ham United team whose recent record was little better than theirs, Rovers were awful in the first half — in Kidd's own words, cautious and apprehensive — and unlucky in the second. Add a long injury list and you have an ominous combination.

Or do you? "If I didn't know the problems, then I would have a problem," Kidd said, "but I've identified them. At the moment, it's out of my control. It's a crippling injury situation, plus the disciplinary record has been poor."

On Saturday, absences forced Kidd to field a team which, he admitted, included a number of square pegs in round holes, in a formation that handed the home team the freedom of the wings, which became evident when Paolo Di Canio crossed for Ian Pearce to head the opening goal after 28 minutes.

Without Billy McKinlay and Garry Flitcroft, the Blackburn midfield also allowed Eyal Berkovic too much leeway, and he took a return pass from Frank Lampard four minutes later before teeing up Di Canio for his first goal since joining West Ham.

Rovers staged a second-half rally, but a combination of poor finishing from Ashley Ward and excellent saves by Shaka Hislop allowed West Ham to hold out and claim sixth place in the table.

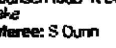
Eighteenth place is unfamiliar territory for Kidd, but he believes that he can deal with the predicament. "Working under Alex Ferguson, I've seen pressure situations," he said. "We've had a tough two weeks game-wise; prior to that, we've done OK. It isn't all doom and gloom." Nor does pressure to replace injured players with stop-gap signings, a solution he rejects on principle, although it leaves unanswered the question of the yawning gap in central midfield.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, expressed surprise at Blackburn's position, but preferred to enthuse over the performance of his own team. "When you have got people like Berkovic and Di Canio, and you get into good movement and passing, and a few things are coming off, little flicks and one-twos, I think they enjoy it," Redknapp said. With half a squad on the treatment table and very little coming off, Kidd might have pointed out that it is not so much fun.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, S Potts — S Lomas, E Berkovic, M-V Foe, F Lampard, M Keller — T Sinclair, P Di Canio

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-1-2): J Filan — J McAteer, D Peacock, M Broomes, C Davidson — K Gillespie, D Dunn (sub: G Croft, 68min), J Wilcox (sub: D Duff, 57) — M Jansen (sub: K Davies, 50) — A Ward, N Blake

Referee: S Dunn



Crossley keeps Forest afloat



Crossley salutes the visiting Nottingham Forest supporters after winning a point for his team with a series of brilliant saves, including one from Redfearn's penalty kick



CHARLTON 0
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0

by Rob Hughes

SOMETIMES, the scoreline lies. At a glance you might assume this was a pit of gloom or that Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest were equal in relegation mediocrity. Not true; Charlton are better than that. The people of SE7 still exude a joy at being back in their cavernous home, and on Saturday, alight with sunshine, The Valley vibrated to the sound of samba and steel bands and was filled by faces painted red, white and black in response to their club's sixth annual anti-racist day.

Here, not far from where Stephen Lawrence was murdered, was sport in a broader perspective. As the music played, colour came back into a career once thought lost to fearful injury. Mark Crossley learnt at a 12.45pm that his day had come. Almost two years after he last played in the FA Carling Premiership, after a double hernia, a back ailment and then the reliable form of his replacement, Crossley heard his name first on the Forest teamsheet. Approaching 30, he may be, but nerves set in.

Across the dressing-room the looming figure of Dave Beasant, Forest's first-choice goalkeeper last season and this, came towards him. "Dave said we shouldn't let this come between us," Crossley said, "he said we have such a good relationship, there are no hard feelings whatsoever."

Crossley stepped into a team that had conceded 13 goals in three matches, and put a stop to that. The defence, still, was porous, the entire Forest side was overrun and Crossley admitted it is more likely to be relegated than not. Yet with five magnificent saves, and a penalty stop to boot, Crossley defied Charlton single-handedly. Stretching high, swooping low, obviously agile and seemingly calm, he is again an athlete without pain and without doubt that he can stand tall before a full house.

Indeed, because of him, Charlton's home became the valley of frustration. The goalkeeper, abetted by woeful missed opportunities, could yet cost Charlton dear in the final reckoning. Their spirit is extraordinary, their own defence unbreached during February. But they are without a home game for five weeks, in part because the Tottenham Hotspur fixture is postponed because of the Worthington Cup final, and how much better it would have been to travel after an emphatic victory.

The penalty in the 70th minute crystallised what happened. John Robinson, one of any number of red-shirted Charlton players working like ants to try to break the deadlock, was bodychecked by Steve Chettle just inside the penalty area. Redfearn did what he has done 39 times, placed the ball on the penalty spot and hit it. But Crossley is not entirely a novice against penalties.

High life	3
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Palace profit	30

He is the only man ever to stop a Matthew Le Tissier penalty, he is the goalkeeper who stopped Gary Lineker from the penalty spot during the 1991 FA Cup Final. He reads the signs, makes up his mind, and throws himself on fortune.

"I always guess with penalties," he said. "With a right-footed player [like Redfearn] it's likely that he will try to put the ball across the keeper, so I went that way." He hurled his 6ft, 15-stone plus frame low to his right and, because Redfearn's shot was accurate but tentative, the save was easier than Crossley's dive to a similar spot five minutes later when Redfearn, this time uncharacteristically with his left boot, was repelled by the finger tips of the goalkeeper's glove.

Redfearn was one of two Charlton players who could have had a hat-trick. The other was Martin Pringle, the former military man from Sweden whose elusive front-running and deft touch have given Charlton new options and new hope. On Saturday, however, Pringle miscued a gaping chance after four minutes and never regained composure. Pringle wants a permanent home rather than the Kent hotel room that he shares with his wife and four-week-old son, Hugo.

What was surprising was that a fellow guest at the hotel, John Barnes, was at not invited to show whether his flair could be decisive. The former Newcastle United and Liverpool player got no closer than the warm-up track, and may as well have spent the afternoon babysitting for the Pringles, a role he has volunteered on the lonely nights in Bexleyheath. But while Forest — with Steve Stone and Pierre van Hooijdonk no better than the team they seek to abandon — brought just one save from Simon Royce. Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said: "The team was playing well, and I didn't need to change things and risk getting beat."

Caution, in the end, weighed on Charlton. What Ron Atkinson, the Forest Messiah, thought, we may never know. A manager built by public image, Big Ron shunned the obligation to face the media. It left Crossley, a Forest man from his schooldays, saying: "Even if we go down, my ambition is to stay in the team, and grab my Welsh place back. It's great to be fit and to get the chance."

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C Tiler — J Robinson, M Kinsella, N Redfearn, K Jones, C Powell — A Hunt (sub: C Mendonca, 73min), M Pringle

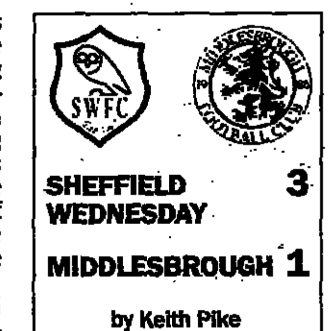
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): M Crossley — C Edwards, T Bonalair, S Chettle — M Louis-Jean, S Stone, C Palmer, S Gemmill (sub: N Quashie, 76), S Stensaas — J-C Darcheville (sub: N Shipperley, 62), P van Hooijdonk.

Referee: S Lodge



Di Canio joyfully celebrates his first goal for West Ham

Gascoigne dims memory with secondary role



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 3
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

by Keith Pike

THE only two things that can be said with any certainty about Paul Gascoigne are that (a) he will never again be the player he once was, and (b) he never was quite the player he might have been. If Kevin Keegan really is serious about making his first step as England coach a backward one by seeking one last burst of light from a faded star, then he might just as well go the whole hog and ask Sir Bobby Charlton to get his boots back on.

Even as he runs down to the Post Office to pick up his pension, Charlton would have as much chance of recreating one of those trademark, body-swerving bursts away from an opponent and into scoring range as Gascoigne does today. The brain may still be able to work out the logistics of such a manoeuvre, but the legs and lungs are incapable of carrying it out.

Gascoigne has, by all accounts, been playing tolerably well of late in a Middlesbrough team that is collectively suffering from a terminal shortage of confidence, goals, points and, on this occasion, luck. But his contribution at Hillsborough was restricted to a handful of short and safe passes — and not even all of them were successful — an ambitious volley that almost cleared the Kop, a pointed disagreement with a colleague and a booking, his twelfth of the season, for an early (tenth-minute), late (as in the ball had gone) and studs-up challenge on Sonner. In short, it was a mess. Keegan could summon any one of a number of midfield journeymen from any division he fancies and be guaranteed much the same level of performance without the risk of a red card.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, defended his man, citing a sore knee and over-zealous refereeing, but was forced to confess that he had taken Gascoigne off at half-time to avoid Mike Riley, the Leeds official, doing the job for him. Nor did he argue the point that Middlesbrough were an immeasurably better team for Gascoigne's departure.

So, if not Gazza for England, how about Wednesday for Europe? No chance, despite the impressive run of form that has taken them into the top half of the table. For 20 invigorating minutes, during which Carbone was wonderfully inventive and Rudi a particular menace on the left wing, they looked like a team blending nicely.

In the end, though, they were flattered by the victory, never mind the margin of it. Booth's near-post finish was scant reward for Wednesday's early supremacy, but Middlesbrough would have been at least level by half-time had Beck not been spectacularly denied by Pressman, then missed a sitter of a volley, and had Pallister not found the bar with a thumping header.

Three goals in as many second-half minutes decided the points in favour of the home team: Sonner broke Middlesbrough's stranglehold by meeting Jonk's cross with the header it deserved, Mustoe scampered through to reply, then Booth headed in Rudi's free kick from close range. Gascoigne later found his way to the players' lounge. The route to Wembley and Poland on March 27 should be cordoned off.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, D Walker, E Thome, A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner, P Rudi — B Carbone, A Booth.

MIDDLESBROUGH (5-3-2): M Schwarzer — R Stockdale (sub: C Harrison, 90min), C Cooper, S Vickers, G Pallister, D Gordon — R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub: N Maddison, 46), A Townsend — M Beck, H Ricard

Referee: M Riley

Influence of Graham fails to inspire victory

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
DERBY COUNTY 1

by Russell Kempson

A FAIR sign of a club's well-being can be found outside its ground on match day. Supporters mill around in anticipation, street traders sell their wares with ease and the ticket touts have a spring in their step. Everyone wants a piece of the action; success on the pitch breeds success on the streets.

On Saturday afternoon, Tottenham High Road was alive. "Wembley 99" banners and T-shirts were all the rage and the banter flowed and glowed in the direction of George Graham, the former demon of Arsenal but now saviour of White Hart Lane. Tottenham Hotspur had reached the final of the Worthington Cup, the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and were undefeated in 14 matches. Long gone were the dour, dismal days of Gerry Francis and Christian Gross — Graham's predecessors — the players had rediscovered their zest for life and the fans were no longer disenchanted.

It took only 30 minutes of an essentially lifeless first half for reality to kick in. Tottenham had, unconvincingly, dominated a tepid FA Carling Premiership encounter with Derby County and Graham, seated in his directors' box eyrie, had had enough. Hardly had he arrived in the dugout before he was urging the slackers on to greater effort and goading his troops into the firing line.

Fifty-six seconds into the second half, the Tottenham of old — lazy minds, poor concentration, slack marking — returned to haunt them. Dorigo's quick free kick was nodded on by Wanchope for Burton to slide the ball home from close range. Graham's renowned powers of organisation and motivation appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.

Only then did his players respond, with Freund flinging himself dervish-like into battle, Ginola at last flitting more in than out and Sherwood driving forward.

Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, saved marvellously from Schnoor's inadvertant deflection of Ginola's cross and also did well to push Anderton's piledriver on to the crossbar. He could do nothing, though, to prevent the equaliser, when Dominguez, the substitute, released Sherwood to conjure a precisely measured shot. The real Tottenham, under Graham, had finally emerged and they could have won it in a frenzied, often bizarre, conclusion. As Tottenham battered away at the Derby goal, Burton was booked for failing to leave the pitch to remove his dangling neck chain and Edinburgh was sent off for his second bookable offence, a mistimed tackle on Harper. Perhaps Wanchope should have gone, too, for his lunge at Taricco.

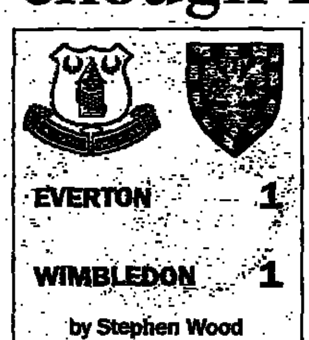
The jigsaw is taking shape and another piece will be slotted into place tomorrow when Stewart Houston, Graham's former assistant at Highbury, leaves Ipswich Town to join him. Chris Hughton, having diligently worked his way up to No 2 over a period of six years, will return to the shadows as just another coach. He put on a brave face. "George and Stewart had an excellent partnership and I'm looking forward to working with them," he said.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — M Taricco, R Vega, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — D Anderton, S Freund, T Sherwood, D Ginola — S Iversen, C Armstrong (sub: J Dominguez, 65min)

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — J Laursen, H Carbonari, S Schnoor — S Eranio (sub: S Prior, 41), L Carsley, L Bohinen, A Dorigo (sub: K Harper, 72) — D Burton — F Baiano (sub: J Hunt, 73), P Wanchope.

Referee: J Winter

Jeffers shows Smith he is man enough for task



EVERTON 1
WIMBLEDON 1

by Stephen Wood

FRANCIS JEFFERS is bony of body but stony of mind. At the age of 18, when nature and a selection of gym equipment has had little time to carve out a physique that can repel the defensive warhorses of the FA Carling Premiership, it is the mental prowess that separates growing men from the boys. That is why Everton, despite all their cautionary tales, believe Jeffers is a special player.

Jeffers's education in the game developed from a hero-worship of Andy Gray, the former Everton striker, even though he was only four when Gray last kicked a ball for the club, to shining at the Football Association's School of Excellence at Lilleshall. Goals have flowed at all levels but, such has been the chronic state of Everton this season that, Walter Smith, the manager, has tried to protect Jeffers from the depression surrounding the side.

It required, therefore, words rather than actions for Smith to give in to temptation. Initially, Smith, who only joined Everton last summer, was told by the staff at the club, who had seen Jeffers progress, that "young Francis could handle the pressures of the first team". From Jeffers himself came confirmation that he was ready. "I've played in front of 70,000 people for England schoolboys in Germany, so I didn't see why 35,000 at Goodison would be such a problem," he said.

And so it has proved. He scored his first league goal against Wimbledon on Saturday, a neat header to earn his team-mates a valuable point as their attempt to climb clear of relegation trouble continued. Danny Cadamarteri, Jeffers's teenage strike partner, supplied the cross for the goal and deserves special praise. For it was Cadamarteri who embraced the physical duties that Jeffers, to an extent, had to negate.

Smith commended the pair's contribution to the afternoon, but he is not a man to over-indulge. "Young players are a surprise for people," Smith wrote in the match programme. "In the weeks to come, Francis will face different defenders who will set different challenges for him." Smith will be grateful when Hutchison returns from suspension, and overjoyed if he can persuade Kevin Campbell, from Trabzonspur, or Michael Mols, a striker from Holland, to sign for the club.

However, in response to Smith's wariness, Jeffers's mature attitude is evident once again. "All I wanted was a chance," he said. "I'm not going to be a hero at 18. I'm confident in my ability, but I will never forget where I have come from, or where I'm at now."

Dave Watson, the Everton defender, misjudged a ball that caught in the wind to allow Efan Ekoku to open the scoring for Wimbledon after 14 minutes for the visitors' first goal in six matches.

Thereafter, their paucity of ideas suggested there could be another long wait until the next one. Instead, it was Everton who pressed for a winner, and could have had a penalty when Hughes appeared to trip Branch, the home side's substitute.

EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — D Weir, D Watson, M Materazzi, D Unsworth — J Oster (sub: M Branch, 81min), O Dacourt, M Ball, N Barmby — D Cadamarteri, F Jeffers.

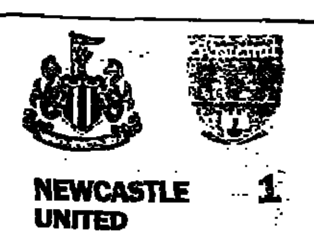
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — J Euell (sub: N Ardley, 32), A Roberts, R Earle, M Hughes — E Ekoku, M Gayle.

Referee: N Barry.

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FA Carling Premiership: Germany midfield player dents title ambitions

Hamann breaks Arsenal's cover



NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
ARSENAL 1

by Kevin McCarra

BAD timing, like a change in the weather, can turn an appealing jaunt into a treacherous journey. In previous days, progress might have been comfortable, but Arsenal, despite taking the lead, were unable to make their way through to victory yesterday against a Newcastle United side that is growing in resourcefulness.

Arsenal, seven points behind Manchester United in the FA Carling Premiership, may even come to see this as a day when the itinerary of their intended trek towards the title was disrupted and will think wistfully of occasions earlier in the season when such as West Ham United and Leeds United sauntered to St James' Park and amused themselves by administering a pasting.

Since then, the ground has ceased to be an amusement parlour for the day-trippers. Ruud Gullit has pieced together a team that functions more fluently. It would be idle to pretend that he is in anything more than the early stages of overhaul and there were spells yesterday when Newcastle looked uneasy. Yet they never capitulated and newcomers such as Didier Domi have brought a solidity that foiled Arsenal's efforts to take decisive control.

Even more importantly, Newcastle, when the propects appear dreary, have the potential for effervescence, as they had shown when conjuring a fine goal to knock Blackburn Rovers out of the FA Cup last week. They tapped this resource against Arsenal when Temuri Ketsbaia, a substitute, fed Dietmar Hamann in the 77th minute. The Germany midfield player strode on to weave his way into the cluster at the centre of the Arsenal defence. This is a course that is usually about as safe as sprinting into the midst of a motorway.



Anelka, who had been put clear by Bergkamp, strides past Given, the Newcastle goalkeeper, to put Arsenal ahead at St James' Park. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Hamann, however, was not mown down and kept his balance to stab a controlled shot into the corner of the net. It was a breakthrough that also smashed the highly familiar shape that the game had been assuming. Were it not for that inspired intervention, this would have been the most old-fashioned of Arsenal successes. In the gap between Newcastle's bright opening and the equaliser, Arsène Wenger's side had plied their trade with deadening efficiency.

Arsenal, above all, are the team to fasten mercilessly on to a small advantage, for the champions are famous for the relish they take in a close contest. For them, the satisfaction inherent in a narrow win would have been as great as that of any rout. No matter what other renovations have been undertaken by Wenger at Highbury, that trait has been preserved with a conservationist's zeal.

Alan Shearer cheerfully exchanged thumps with his England team-mates, but the resistance of Tony Adams and Martin Keown is not to be broken down by meaty blows. In the end, guile was to prove their undoing and, by that late stage, artifice was not expected to make an appearance.

It was not always the players' fault that the action, which saw Remi Garde taken off on a stretcher off in the fourth minute following a challenge by Solano was a matter of bump and bruise. A soft, abraded surface made the ball a bit of a stick-in-the-mud and, as the passes refused to roll, a static game joined the players together through tugs and tussles.

The resilient aspect of Arsenal was highlighted by Patrick Vieira, the sentinel in midfield, whose guard duty still allowed him time off for bouts of deftness. In the twentieth minute, he turned near his own corner flag to detach himself from Brady and embark on a loping surge before supplying Nicolas Anelka, who sent Overmars through with a flick.

Newcastle could not stop Arsenal then, but Mike Reed, the referee, did, deciding that Anelka had been fouled by Nikolaos Dabizas and declining to play the blatant advantage. Even so, Gullit's side were not to be saved from themselves in the 36th minute. Both of Newcastle's centre backs were at fault, with Steve Howey fluffing a clearance to Bergkamp and Dabizas failing to intercept the pass from the Dutchman that sent Anelka clear to drift round Shay Given to finish.

The episode left Newcastle with an acrid taste, but there had been sourness in their mouths for a while. In the 29th minute, Solano had taken possession from Speed to stride to the byline and deliver the ideal, low cross to the back post. Shearer waited there and looked almost nonchalant as he thrust out his right foot to nudge the ball home. Somehow, he made no contact at all.

Newcastle continue to have several faults, but, under Gullit, enough talent has been amassed to ensure that, on days like this, they can atone for them.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — L Charvet, S Howey, N Dabizas, D Domi — N Solano (sub: T Ketsbia, 60min), D Hamann, G Speed, G Brady (sub: R Lee, 60) — L Saha, A Shearer.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, R Garde (sub: S Hughes, 4), M Overmars (sub: M Upson, 85) — N Anelka, D Bergkamp.

Referee: M Reed.

Gregory reconciled to failure

ASTON VILLA 1
COVENTRY CITY 4

by Richard Hobson

EVEN as they sat six points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership earlier in the season the feeling remained that Aston Villa would slip behind the true championship contenders come the winter. Few, not least John Gregory, the manager, expected such a steep decline and fall.

Gregory was merely stating what has become glaringly apparent when he effectively conceded defeat in the challenge for the title after a shocking reverse on Saturday. There might have been a hint of exaggeration when he declared the performance as the "worst of my life as a player or a manager", but not of his candid assessment of Villa's present situation. "We are in deep trouble," he said, or words to that effect.

If Leeds United beat Leicester City tonight then Villa will slip to fifth place, their lowest position of the season. But regardless of the result at Filbert Street, self-belief is so low, rhythm so disjointed and injuries biting so deeply that a place in the Uefa Cup, the worst-case scenario until recently, must now be considered uncertain.

While Coventry City played with the passion and purpose usually reserved for the last game of the campaign, when their status hinges on the result, they were ushered to a first league win at Villa Park as smoothly as guests at a wedding. Flimsy both in defence and midfield, Villa stood uneasily in a linear 4-4-2 formation that saw Hendrie and Merson confined to the flanks and the full backs offering little support.

"I saw things which confirmed my worst fears about certain players," Gregory said. "There are a lot of injuries and not much confidence, but when you boil it all down those are excuses not reasons. I have not dealt with matters too well so I'm facing a huge test myself. But I am a good manager, and I intend to do something."

Although he suggested that movement in the transfer market represented the easy option, it is one that he is likely to take. "We should have gone and spent another £10 million on players to strengthen the squad. Failure to land the Juninho deal was a huge disappointment," he added.

A suggestion that Atlético Madrid are considering Gregory as a replacement for Arrigo Sacchi, sacked as the coach last week, has arrived at a convenient time for the manager as he seeks support from the boardroom before the transfer deadline next month. Alan Stubbs, the Celtic defender, remains a target, but whether Stubbs can provide the strength of the injured Ugo Ehiogu is a moot point.

It is difficult to imagine the robust Ehiogu being muscled out of the challenges that led to the first two Coventry goals. After 24 minutes Aloisi turned ahead of Scimeca before angling his low shot across Oakes. Then, five minutes into the second half, Scimeca again allowed himself to be beaten by Boateng, who scored at the near post.

By this time Boateng had secured a firm grip in midfield to complement the craft of McAllister and endeavour of Telfer. Coventry could consider themselves unfortunate that Uriah Rennie, the referee, deemed a challenge by Shaw on Joachim worthy of a penalty, and if Dublin had scored from close range four minutes after converting from the spot then Gordon Strachan, the manager, might have spoken more caustically about the decision afterwards.

Instead, Aloisi reacted smartly when Southgate lost his balance to volley in a free kick by Froggatt in the 72nd minute and Boateng completed the victory by lobbing Oakes as the goalkeeper tried to cut out a through pass by McAllister. A serious ankle injury to Watson and a muted display by Dublin compounded the difficulties facing Gregory.

Strachan has a happier problem in how to accommodate the predatory Aloisi when Whelan recovers fitness. "Huckerby and Whelan want to play good football and like scoring goals, but Aloisi is just desperate to score goals," Strachan said. Other defences will offer the Australia striker less assistance.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Oakes — S Watson (sub: G Barry, 43min), R Scimeca, G Southgate, A Wright — P Merson, S Grayson, I Taylor (sub: M Draper, 28; sub: S Collymore, 60), L Hendrie — D Dublin, J Joachim.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — G Boateng, P Telfer, G McAllister, S Froggatt — D Huckerby (sub: G McSheffrey, 90), J Aloisi

Referee: U Rennie.

Houllier building on weak foundations

CHELSEA 2
LIVERPOOL 1

by Alyson Rudd

NEXT to Gérard Houllier, Gianluca Vialli, with his penchant for school-uniform colours and jumpers, looks every inch the keen student. But Houllier, while appearing professorial, needs to peek over Vialli's shoulder to discover the formula they are working to at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's victory came too easily. Liverpool only applying pressure in the final 20 minutes, and had the visitors secured a draw, no one would have been fooled.

Chelsea should have doubled their goal tally while so evidently on top, but that has been their bugbear all season and still they keep on winning. Liverpool cannot keep on doing anything except bow to the gods of inconsistency. It is not difficult to picture Houllier buried in the bootroom, chalk in one hand, board duster in the other, trying to unearth the formation that will solve the puzzle and unleash on to the FA Carling Premiership a Liverpool side that lives up to its billing.

That is perhaps at the root of the problem. All this fiddling, tweaking and cajoling has to stop. Liverpool should have been rebuilt years ago, possibly twice over since they last won the league title in 1990. Arguably Bill Shankly's greatest talent was in seeing decline in the midst of victory, of planning beyond the next cup final, the next trophy.

Now the opposite is true. Houllier is clinging on and building around foundations that are just are not strong enough. Both Liverpool and England are suffering because the partnership of Ince and Redknapp in midfield is considered a perfect combination of guile and guts. Well, it ought to be, and on occasion it has been, but their fine performances do not outweigh their disappointing ones.

Against Chelsea, Liverpool gave away possession in midfield and put the defence under constant pressure. Babb and Matteo coped reasonably well and while Kvarme and Bjornebye blundered, struggling to adapt to the 4-4-2 formation forced on them when Heggem had to be replaced in the ninth minute, the entire back line could argue they had been let down.

Houllier has been protective of the team when, on their travels, they have lost ground — this was their eighth away defeat of the season — but on Saturday he was less inclined to find excuses. Even so, he restricted his criticism to the niceties rather than the fundamentals. "We build up too slow. What gives fluidity to a game is movement," he said.

Some disillusioned supporters might want to see movement of a different sort. With only a decent placing in the Premiership to strive for, Liverpool are in danger of becoming insular and obsessed.

Chelsea's concentration ebbed a touch too early, but you could almost forgive them for believing they had done enough in the first half to win the game.

They rotate much more than just their strike-force at Stamford Bridge. They take it turns to be heroes too. Right now Goldbaek is the toast of Fulham Road. He and Petrescu enjoyed themselves, pinging the ball from wing to wing, leaving the visitors dizzy and disorientated, and from a deep cross by the Rumanian, Goldbaek snatched Chelsea's second goal. "I was unmarked," he admitted. That happens sometimes but why had no one on the Liverpool bench noticed that Goldbaek had been continuously unmarked and ordered Kvarme to stalk him?

Liverpool could have played the misfortune card early on, Babb giving away an early penalty, converted by Leboeuf, after it appeared he was not intentionally handling the ball but claiming a foul against him by Flo.

Liverpool created chances other than the one that led to Owen's goal in the 77th minute, but it is not just Chelsea who have brushed them aside this season.

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E De Goey — A Ferrer, M Desailly, F Leboeuf (sub: B Lambourde, 33min), G Le Saux (sub: E Newton, 82) — D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, J Morris, B Goldbaek — T A Flo (sub: M Forssell, 86), G Zola.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — B T Kvarme, D Matteo, P Babb — V Heggem (sub: S McManaman, 9), J Redknapp, P Ince (sub: J M Ferri, 48), P Berger (sub: K Riedle 80), S I Bjornebye — M Owen, R Fowler.

Referee: P Durkin

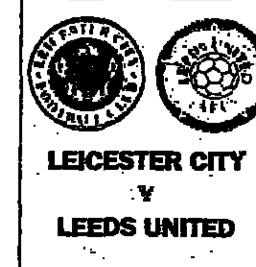


Richard Hobson

Speculation over the next manager of Leeds United overshadowed an otherwise forgettable encounter between these clubs last October. When Tony Cottee earned Leicester City a 1-0 win at Elland Road, the odds on Martin O'Neill replacing George Graham shortened.

Some three weeks passed before O'Neill finally rejected the overtures from Elland Road and David O'Leary accepted the post. Leicester supporters danced in the streets, while at Leeds they reserved judgment. Half a season later, the verdict on O'Leary could hardly be more favourable. Victory against a Leicester side without a win in six league games tonight will lift Leeds into fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership and raise hopes for a Uefa Cup place next season.

Radebe, who was due to arrive home from South Africa at 6am this morning, will play his second game in three days, having appeared for his country against Gabon on Saturday, but Woodgate is suspended. O'Neill recalls Cottee, while Heskey is expected to have recovered from a back problem.



LEICESTER CITY v LEEDS UNITED

Tonight, 8.0

LEICESTER CITY (possible: 3-5-2): K Keller — P Kaamark, M Elliott, R Ullathorne — F Sinclair, T Zagorakis, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — A Cottee, E Heskey

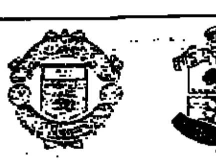
LEEDS UNITED (possible: 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe, I Harte — A I Haaland, L Bowyer, D Hopkin, W Korsten — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell

Referee: G Barber

■ TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.

■ PREDICTION: Home win.

Beckham rises above United's indifference



MANCHESTER UNITED 2
SOUTHAMPTON 1

by Kevin McCarra

PRE-MATCH entertainment is good for business only because it sends many supporters fleeing for the snack bar. The crowd actually stayed and grumbled in its seats at Old Trafford, but could not have mistaken the fact that this fixture was a desultory preliminary to the real event. Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and the rest were a warm-up act for themselves. They did no more than kindle interest in a performance of, one hopes, far greater dimensions that they will give against Internazionale in the home leg of the European Cup quarter-final on Wednesday.

There is more often a glint than a twinkle in the eye of Alex Ferguson, the manager, and he did not consider the long listlessness pardonable. One figure met his standard. While others took the field yet excused themselves duty, David Beckham's desire to make passes was never sated. Every move that brought or promised a goal had a contribution from Beckham embedded within it.

There was nothing statuesque in his display, no inclination to content himself with striking long balls from deep positions. He often ran hard at Southampton and, in an undistinguished match, the loss of him would have been intolerable. Even the referee was, rightly, solicitous of his welfare. When Beckham was brought down by Patrick Colleter, Peter Jones was as eager to calm the midfield player as he was to book the Frenchman.

After his dismissal against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup, there has been a contrived yet persistent hostility towards Beckham from the fans of other clubs. It may be that, as a riposte, he has learnt to apply his skills with greater concentration than ever. Even Ferguson, who was otherwise in no mood for plaudits, said: "He has been magnificent for us this season."

In the game with Inter, Beckham will face Diego Simeone, the man against whom he retaliated to earn that red card at the World Cup. On Saturday, however, United eventually demonstrated that the excitement of their European Cup campaign will spring from more than the melodrama of one man's life. Having tried to rest some important members of the team, Ferguson found that the competence of the visiting team compelled him to reinstate them as substitutes.

SOUTHAMPTON, surprisingly confident at a ground where they have now lost ten matches in a row, kept possession well in the first half, even if they fashioned virtually no chances. Beckham set up Yorke and Giggs for headers that were blocked on the goal-line, but United's discontent grew and Roy Keane was brought on to generate the pace that had been lacking in the build-up.

The erosion of Southampton was under way and they also lost Ken Monkou with a hamstring injury. In the 79th minute, Beckham's corner was nodded back by Henning Berg, laid-off by Yorke and finished with the low shot from Keane that deflected from the leg of Colleter. Four minutes later, Beckham barely broke stride as he tamed Denis Irwin's awkward, dropping clearance before striding on to flight the beautiful pass that allowed Yorke to sidestep Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, and increase the lead.

All the same, United should experience a little unease. Once more, they were as unhappy at set-pieces as they have been in the European matches. James Beattie met a corner from Matt Le Tissier, a substitute, and headed against the bar when the game was goalless. In injury time, Le Tissier, unhampered, glanced home Jason Dodd's free kick. A minute earlier, Peter Schmeichel had dived for a Le Tissier shot and spooned the ball to Beattie, who hit the post. There is still remedial work of one sort or another to be done at Old Trafford.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen, P Neville (sub: D Irwin, 78min) — D Beckham, P Scholes (sub: R Keane, 46), N Butt, R Giggs — D Yorke, O G Solskjaer (sub: A Cole, 67)

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou (sub: F Benali, 50), C Lundekvam, P Colleter — D Hughes, M Oakley, C Marsden, W Bridge — J Beattie, E Ostenstad (sub: M Le Tissier, 67)

Referee: P Jones

Chelsea chase Sutton

Sutton: flattered

HAVING made what appeared to be a tongue-in-cheek approach to Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, Chelsea's interest may be more serious (Alyson Rudd writes).

After Blackburn's 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago, Suzannah Dwyer, the partner of Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, asked Sutton: "How do you fancy playing for us?"

What Sutton assumed was a joke has now turned into genuine interest. Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup campaigns are all in robust health, despite their apparent struggle to score goals.

Sutton, who would cost around £10 million, could make the difference while Tore Andre Flo regains full fitness and Mikael Forssell, the young Finland forward, learns his trade in the Premiership. "It's flattering when a team like Chelsea want you," Sutton said.

Nationwide League: Bradford rise while Goldberg's popularity sinks in victory

Jewell revels in thrill of the chase

Bradford City 1
West Bromwich Albion 0

By Pat Gibson

CRAZY. Paul Jewell, the Bradford City manager, called it. Strange. Denis Smith, his West Bromwich Albion counterpart, concurred. They were talking about the Nationwide League first division in which no fewer than eleven clubs are still clinging to the hope that they can join Sunderland, the runaway leaders, in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Jewell's remark was prompted by the news of Bolton Wanderers' 3-1 home defeat by the bottom club, Crewe Alexandra, which had allowed Bradford to sneak back into the second automatic promotion position, behind Sunderland. "That sort of thing can happen in this division," he said.

Results and tables 32
Lynne Truss 33

Smith's comment was in support of his contention that West Bromwich can still win a place in the play-offs, despite the fact that they have now taken only one point from their past four games and dropped to ninth.

"Everybody is beating one another," he said. "We've had a bad month and it's not done us the world of good. It has made life extremely difficult, *but it isn't over yet. I've just* told my players that it's only March. The season finishes in May."

Bradford did not need reminding of that but there is a growing belief at Valley Parade that they are on their way back to the top division of English football for the first time since the 1921-22 season.

They have been beaten only once in their past 13 league games and Jewell reflected his pleasure in the way they are churning out results in his chipper, Scouse way. "I'm glad we're out of our slump," he said. "Two draws and a victory. Terrible."

Bradford still have a long way to go if they are to compete on a regular basis with the club that was relegated with them 77 years ago — it just happened to be Manchester United — but, on Saturday, *they showed a similar facility* for winning games without playing as fluently as they can.

There were valid reasons for that. They were without the *influential* Beagrie on the left because of injury and when their other winger, Lawrence, went off in the 17th minute with a bad back, they had to split their prolific striking partnership of Mills and Blake to retain their shape.

There was an unexpected bonus, however. Jewell pushed Jacobs, normally a left back, into a left-sided midfield position in place of Beagrie and was able to claim afterwards, albeit with tongue firmly in cheek, "an inspired change of tactics by the manager. I always knew he could play left wing."

Apart from that, Jacobs scored the goal, after only two minutes, to upset West Bromwich's pre-match plan to pack their midfield in order to make themselves more solid in defence. Sneekes conceded a foul on the right and, when Whalley's free kick was headed out, Jacobs's shot was deflected past a wrong-footed Whitehead.

Bradford seemed to have scored a second goal in the *25th minute when Mills* turned in Rankin's low cross, but it was belatedly ruled out for offside and, for all the excellence of McCall and Whalley in midfield, their nerves were beginning to fray when *Rankin squandered two second-half chances.*

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — A O'Brien, D Moore, A Westwood (sub: J Dreyer, 84 mins), L Todd — J Lawrence (sub: I Rankin, 17 min), S McCall, G Whalley, W Jacobs — *R Blake, L Mills*

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-5-1): P Whitehead — P Holmes, S Murphy, D Burgess, *J Van Blerk — M Angel, M Bortolazzi* (sub: P Raven, 87), J Quinn (sub: F De Freitas, 60), R Sneekes, K Kilbane — L Hughes

Referee: R Pearson



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Mullins, left, turns away in celebration with Morrison, centre, after giving Crystal Palace the lead at Selhurst Park

Mullins gives Palace rebels cause to smile

Crystal Palace 1
Barnsley 0

By Russell Kempson

MANY Crystal Palace supporters travelled to Selhurst Park yesterday with one aim in mind: to heckle Mark Goldberg, the chairman, and voice their dismay at his troubled eight-month stewardship of the Nationwide League first division club. They left, a few disgruntled chants and token protests later, in buoyant *mood, having witnessed Palace's first victory since Boxing Day.*

The expected mass calling for Goldberg's head did not *materialise.* The fans' anger may yet resurface, not to mention that of the players. They did not receive their monthly wages on Friday and will wait with trepidation until Wednesday, when Goldberg has promised to pay up from his personal funds. That the value of his shares in his computer company recently slumped from its £10 million "comfort zone" to little more than £2 million does not augur well.

Goldberg remained upbeat amid the discontent. "Maybe my biggest mistake was my ambition," he said. "I thought too big too quickly. I can understand why the fans are angry but it doesn't help to fight with me. It's the time to unite, not fight." Steve Coppell, once again called into the breach after the departure of Terry Venables, the Palace coach, six weeks ago, has seen it all before.

"I think it's part of the Palace fans' mentality," he said. "They love to suffer the torture. I'm just glad we didn't play brilliantly and win 5-0 because some of my players might have then been sold.

"We had all kinds of excuses — the strong wind, the state of the pitch, the chairman's problems and not being paid. I'm just happy we got a scrappy win. The players are philosophical about it all and, in the circumstances, they did a thoroughly professional job."

Palace won in ugly fashion but perhaps were due a slice of good fortune. Barnsley, with one eye on their FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, had hardly contributed to an *awful spectacle when they experienced a bizarre series of injuries shortly before half-time.* Moses was the first to go after colliding with Jones, his teammate, and sustaining a gashed head that required *eight stitches. Appleby, his replacement,* went seven minutes later with a suspected cracked pelvis — his fall possibly caused by the uneven surface — and Sheridan failed to reappear after the interval because *of a dislocated jaw. Of* the three, only Moses might recover to play Tottenham.

As the crisp packets and assorted debris flew around in the swirling gusts, neither Palace nor Barnsley were able combat the conditions with any degree of success. That 17,000 fans had turned up to cheer, or jeer, said much for their dislike of armchair viewing or perhaps darker, sadomasochistic tendencies.

Coppell was spot on: it was torture. The goal that decided it, in the 25th minute, was appropriately scrappy, with Mullins scurrying into the Barnsley area and attempting to push his shot past Tony Bullock, the onrushing goalkeeper. The ball bobbled at the vital moment over Bullock's prostrate body and trickled *into the net for Mullins's third* goal of the season.

"I must be the biggest mug in the world," Goldberg said, "but we've got to stick together and see this through." The three points, however ill-deserved, *should give him some* breathing space.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — G Petric, C Moore, A Linighan — J Smith, S Thomson (sub: S Evans, 58min), H Mullins, C Foster, Sun Jihai — C Morrison, Fan Zhiyi (sub: L McKenzie, 73).

BARNSLEY (4-4-2): A Bullock — N Eaden, A de Zeeuw, S Jones, C Blackmore — A Moses (sub: M Appleby, 37, sub: M Bullock, 44), K Richardson, C Hignett, D Sheridan (sub: D Goodman, 46) — B Dyer, M Sheron.

Referee: M Halsey.

Francis goes Continental via North Sea

Grimsby Town 0
Birmingham City 3

By Martin Woods

TREVOR FRANCIS introduced a little bit of Serie A artistry to the North Sea allotment that is Blundell Park when his Birmingham City side gave a masterclass in the art of defending to erode further the *tantalising* prospect of Gianluca Vialli and company gracing Cleethorpes in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Every year, the Premiership entertains a club from the wrong side of the tracks before showing it the door. Alan Buckley's Grimsby Town would trump any of the disadvantages held by previous incumbents of the top division's trapdoor. Even among the candidates for a play-off place, Grimsby revel in the role of rank outsiders. However, if points were awarded for a manager's disarming honesty, automatic promotion would beckon. "I thought we were second best," Buckley said. "They deserved to beat us."

Beaten previously only twice at Blundell Park this season by sides, as Francis pointed out, just departed the Premiership, Grimsby are a formidable proposition at home, so Saturday's 3-0 verdict intimates the growing validity of Birmingham's claim on an automatic promotion spot. "They are the best I've seen for a while," Buckley said.

Birmingham's masterful defence, marshalled by Gary Rowett, laid the foundation for *victory in the first half when* they withstood everything Grimsby threw at them before taking the lead nine minutes before the break.

The goal was a reminder of how the Zimbabwe international Peter Ndlovu once illuminated the top flight. Taking possession just outside the right of the Grimsby box, the former Coventry City striker twisted and turned Lever and Smith before unleashing a shot through the crowded area into the right-hand corner of the net.

For all Grimsby's monopoly *on possession,* their neat, intricate passing game too often foundered on the rock of Rowett and Johnson.

If Grimsby's primary fault was over-elaboration, Birmingham derived their ascendancy from concentrated simplicity. O'Connor, the captain, and Hyde were instrumental in maintaining their side's advantage as Grimsby redoubled their efforts after the break. However, their prospects were undermined as Lever did not reappear and Buckley was forced to deploy Groves, *his captain,* as a makeshift centre half.

When Hughes dribbled clean through the right side of the home defence before shooting straight *at the goalkeeper,* Davison, a quarter of an hour into the half, it confirmed City's growing sense of superiority. They had drawn Grimsby's sting and 1-0 was not going to satisfy them.

Francis proved his theory that a spurned striker is a dangerous one five minutes before the end when the substitute, Dele Adebola, turned Smith outside the *box* before stroking the ball wide of the outstretched Davison. Rowett then rose above the home defence to head home, like a bullet, Hughes's corner. "We just don't throw a back four together," Francis said. "We do a lot of hard work on the training *ground.*"

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Davison — J McDermott, R Smith, M Lever (sub: W Burnett, 46min), *T Gallimore — K Donovan,* S Coldicott (sub: T Widdrington, 64), P Groves, K Black — L Nogan (sub: D Clare, 46), L Ashcroft.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass, G Rowett, M Johnson, S Charlton (sub: J McCarthy, 78) — M Grainger, M O'Connor, G Hyde, B Hughes — *P Furlong* (sub: N Forster, 89), P Ndlovu (sub: D Adebola, 71).

Referee: D Laws.

BOB TAYLOR equalled the all-time goalscoring record for the third division of English football with all five goals as Gillingham demolished Burnley 5-0 at Turf Moor. Taylor scored four *times in the first half before* adding his fifth three minutes after the break.

Houston leaves Wright on top

Bristol City 0
Ipswich Town 1

By David Powell

JUST as surely as Stewart Houston is *leaving Ipswich Town, so luck is deserting* Bristol City. Bristol had not so much the lion's share of the chances as enough to feed an entire jungle, but Richard Wright, Ipswich's England Under-21 goalkeeper, proved unbeatable.

Ipswich moved up one place to third in the Nationwide League first division with their twentieth clean sheet. "How long have we been saying that Richard is the finest young keeper in the country and it was there to be seen again today?" George Burley, the Ipswich manager, observed.

Wright's best moment was a double block from Locke's drive and Akinbiyi's follow-up, but he would not be persuaded into admiring his own work. "In training every day we work on things like that," Wright, 21, said. He is sorry to lose Houston, whose last game as coach this was before joining Tottenham Hotspur. "*He has been a great influence on me,*" Wright said.

Houston is teaming up with George Graham, with whom he had a successful partnership at Arsenal. After the game, when Houston brought the players back out to warm down, they good-naturedly wrestled him to the ground. In return, he left them with a flea in their ear. "Ipswich have to be better on Tuesday against Watford," Houston said. "We cannot go on playing the way we did today."

John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle, raised speculation that he was to be Houston's successor by his presence in the stands. Asked the question, Burley did not deny it.

A 55th-minute goal by Richard Naylor gave Ipswich their thirteenth point from five matches and added to the bad luck being dealt out to Bristol City.

In a bleak February, they have lost to a disputed 89th-minute goal against Sunderland, *enjoyed the better of the chances* against Queens Park Rangers and Ipswich, without winning, had three points snatched away from them in the ninetieth minute against West Bromwich Albion, and lost two key players, Tistímetanu and Bell, to injury for the rest of the season.

On Saturday, after the final whistle, a radio commentator suggested that City were not dead and buried yet. After two wins in 18 matches, they are almost being buried alive.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — L Carey, M Shail, V Sebok, J Brennan — S Andersen, A Locke, R Edwards (sub: M Hill, 76min), A Brown — A Akinbiyi, S Torpey

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Thetis, A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis (sub: M Stockwell, 46), K Dyer, J Magilton, M Holland, J Clapham — R Naylor, M Harewood (sub: R Petta, 82)

Referee: B Knight.

Wigan maintain promotion drive

Macclesfield Town 0
Wigan Athletic 1

By a Correspondent

GIANT strides have been taken by Macclesfield Town over these past two seasons but a small step backwards seems inevitable now after this latest home defeat that leaves them rooted at the foot of the Nationwide League second division.

Even the Macclesfield faithful, who have followed the club from the Conference to their present status, appeared to accept that the chill wind blowing across the tiny South Cheshire ground was an ill one. Lack of money and a rise to prominence that has come too quickly was the general opinion.

Despite their position and the state of the Moss Rose pitch, Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield manager, remained pragmatic. "The pitch is a disgrace but it's the same for both sides," he said. His task is now to lift his team for the home derby match with Stoke City, another team in poor form, tomorrow.

Macclesfield's performance in the first half was desperate, but the goal by Wigan Athletic that decided the contest was derived from cruel luck.

David Lee's sixth-minute floating cross from the right wing gained altitude and speed on the stiff north-easterly and eluded Ryan Price's frantic efforts to backpedal in time to make the save.

Although the home side rallied after half-time, by then Wigan's defensive lines, expertly shored up by Colin Greenall, their centre back, were well established.

Wigan have now lost just two of their past 21 matches. Financed by David Whelan, the chairman of JJB Sports, they will open next season in a new £30 million stadium and it may yet be a debut in the first division.

If that target is to be attained, Simon Haworth, Wigan's record signing, will surely need to be fully fit to provide impetus to a *promotion drive.*

He joined colleagues who had not played on Saturday for a gentle jog around the pitch after the match. Since Haworth, *formerly of* Coventry City, signed for £600,000 last October, he has been troubled by hamstring problems. Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, can afford not to rush his return.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — S Hitchen, S Payne, E Sodje, R Ingram — A Bailey (sub: D Barclay, 85min), B Sedgemore, N Sorvel (sub: G Tomlinson, 65), S Davies (sub: S Wood, 54) — J Askey, P Matias

WIGAN ATHLETIC (5-3-2): R Carroll — C Bradshaw, P McGibbon, C Greenall, S Balmer, K Sharp — *D Lee, P Rogers, M O'Neill* — S Barlow, A Liddell.

Referee: J Kirkby.

Sombre Southend learn facts of life

Cambridge United 3
Southend United 0

By Andy Stephens

SOUTHEND United provided proof at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday that statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital. Alvin Martin's side won more corners than Cambridge United, had as many shots on target as them, twice hit the woodwork and created the easiest goalscoring opportunity of the afternoon — yet were still soundly beaten.

Cambridge, inspired by those invisible virtues of spirit and self-belief, were good value for their success. They displayed a much more acute killer instinct and, aided by two goals from John Taylor, won comfortably to stay on course for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

Southend should have taken the lead in the 42nd minute, when Unger found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat. He shot feebly wide, though, and his distress was multiplied on the stroke of half-time when Taylor cheated down a pass from Martin Butler and hit a 25-yard left-foot volley that flew inside the far post.

The visiting team pressed hard for an equaliser in the second half, but Cambridge were not exactly resting on their laurels and it came as no surprise when Butler, the man of the match, doubled their advantage in the 74th minute. Five minutes later Taylor, in splendid isolation, chipped the advancing Margetson to complete the scoring.

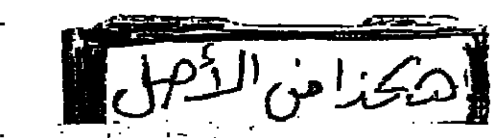
This victory leaves Cambridge one point behind Cardiff City, the leaders, with the luxury of a game in hand. However, the word promotion is best whispered in the vicinity of Roy McFarland, their manager. "We are still a million miles from the second division," he said. "I believe in the old Liverpool adage of the season not starting until Easter — when you know exactly what you've got to do."

In contrast, Southend, relegated for the past two seasons, languish in *eighteenth place.* It seems remarkable that it was only three years ago that they were more than holding their own in the first division — *winning* 3-0 away to Charlton Athletic and doing the double over Leicester City. Those statistics take some swallowing these days.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): A van Heusden — B Chenery, A Duncan, M Joseph, J Campbell — N Mustoe, P Wanless, T Benjamin (sub: M Kyd, 87min), I Ashbee — J Taylor (sub: R Walker, 87), M Butler.

SOUTHEND UNITED (5-3-2): M Margetson — M Beard, M Booty, B Hunter, R Newman, S Coleman (sub: T Fitzpatrick, 73) — K Maher, L Unger, S Houghton — B Conlon, N Roach (sub: A Burns, 73)

Referee: D Crick.



Oliver Holt says Manchester United must exploit fragile opponents



Zamorano, right, the Internazionale forward, receives treatment for a shoulder injury during the dour meeting with Juventus at the San Siro. Photograph: Claudio Villa / Allsport

Inter look designed for heavy beating

The designers are bringing their collections to Milan this week, but Internazionale will be out of town. Ronaldo, Roberto Baggio, Youri Djorkaeff and the rest have business to attend to in Manchester, a million miles from the catwalks, but anyway, in Italy at least, they have already gone out of fashion.

As they regrouped at their rural retreat at Appiano Gentile in the shadow of the Alps yesterday, Inter were busy trying to rid themselves of the haunting memories of their dour goalless draw with Juventus at the San Siro on Saturday night so that they can leave for Manchester tomorrow with delusions of optimism. By the end of a game that was notable only for its almost continuous stream of schoolboy errors and utter lack of invention, movement and flair, Inter's long-suffering supporters were hurling their programmes onto the pitch from the upper tiers of the stadium.

If they had been at the Nou Camp, they would have waved white handkerchiefs. Their players tried to put a brave face on it all. They said they would be a different team in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday. They said they were happy with the way they had played against a Juventus side that is itself a pale imitation of the team that has bestrode the European game in recent years.

The reality, though, is that their problems are mounting. They are a club close to disarray, teetering on the edge of crisis and lacking direction and belief. Ronaldo, upon whom they seem to have become dependent in attack, did not even make the bench on Saturday and it is almost inconceivable that he will start the tie in Manchester. This unhappy bunch of superstars, in short, is exactly what United have been waiting for.

There will never be a better chance for the side that Alex Ferguson has built to break through the psychological barrier of never having eliminated a leading European power from the competition that has become their obsession. At last, they are playing another elite side at exactly the right time.

Inter's draw with Juventus left them 13 points adrift of Lazio, the Serie A leaders, and languishing in sixth place. They have won only three of their nine games this year, each against sides struggling close to the bottom of the table. They have only won away from the San Siro twice all season. They are desperate to coax Ronaldo back to fitness after a two-month absence nursing his injured knee, but he only began gentle training last Wednesday and the most that Mircea Lucescu, Inter's embattled interim coach, can hope for is that he might be able to use him as a substitute at Old Trafford.

Without the Brazilian, Inter's attack lacks a focus for the intelligent promptings of Baggio. Djorkaeff hardly got a kick on Saturday, playing wide on the right, and Ivan Zamorano charged around to little effect down the centre. For all the talk of how Jaap Stam and Ronny Johnsen would be exposed by the pace of the Italian side, that looks like cheap talk now that Ronaldo seems unlikely to feature. If Stam, as seems probable, recovers from his hamstring injury, he has nothing to fear from Zamorano. It was not all the fault of the attack. They received precious little service from a midfield that is high on attrition but low on creativity.

> 'Baggio, as the Juventus players said, is always capable of invention and the unexpected'

Diego Simeone warmed up for his reunion with David Beckham by kicking Zinedine Zidane as often as he could but that was the extent of his contribution. Baggio, as some of the Juventus players cautioned United after the game, is always capable of invention and the unexpected and if there is a danger for Ferguson it is that Inter can hardly be any worse than they were in the San Siro.

Essentially, Saturday's game was a mid-table struggle that counted for little except northern Italian bragging rights. Neither is going to win the championship; each is pinning their hopes on the European Cup where they will do their utmost to raise their game.

Still, the signs for United are encouraging. If Inter looked sterile going forward, there were also reasons to hope that United might be able to exploit some defensive weaknesses, too, particularly on the flanks. On the rare occasions when Thierry Henry summoned the courage to run at Aron Winter and Javier Zanetti, both ill-fitting wing-backs, they looked distinctly uncomfortable. Their performance, even against a Juventus side that is eighth in Serie A, suggested that they will be vulnerable to the pace of Andy Cole and, especially, Ryan Giggs. Inter needed a fine save from Gianluca Pagliuca in the dying seconds to deny Juventus victory after Filippo Inzaghi had skipped merrily past their offside trap.

Beckham, if he evades the clutches of Simeone, should be able to take advantage of Winter's lack of suitability for the job, to supply a string of crosses for Cole and Dwight Yorke. Lucescu, a Romanian who is nicknamed "The Gypsy" by the Italian media because of his swarthy looks, admitted that his side desperately need a win as their trials pile up. This week, it is United; ten days after, they face the Milan derby.

United must seize their opportunity. Inter are there to be taken on Wednesday. By the return leg, Ronaldo may be back, their morale may have been repaired. They are down now and United must display a streak of ruthlessness hitherto unseen to ensure they stay down and go back to the city of catwalks in rags.

INTERNAZIONALE (3-4-2-1): G Pagliuca — F Colonnese, D Simic, F Galante — J Zanetti, D Simeone, B Cauet, A Winter — Y Djorkaeff (sub: A Pirlo, 61min), R Baggio — I Zamorano (sub: N Ventola, 69).

JUVENTUS (4-3-1-2): A Peruzzi — A [illegible], I Tudor, C Ferrara, Z Mirkovic (sub: A Di Livio, 89) — A Conte, D Deschamps, E Davids — Z Zidane — J Esnaider (sub: F Inzaghi, 60), T Henry (sub: D Fonseca, 75).

Referee: B Tomeboom

Wallace grabs hat-trick in Rangers romp

Kilmarnock 0
Rangers 5

By Phil Gordon

RANGERS do not do anything by halves. They strengthened their grip on the Scottish Premier League by demolishing a Kilmarnock side that had conceded only 15 goals until the encounter last night at Rugby Park. Rod Wallace led the rout to restore his side's ten-point lead over Celtic with a hat-trick, two of which came in the final minutes, along with a sublime finish from Jonatan Johansson.

The early goals from Neil McCann had underlined Kilmarnock's lack of belief, but they chased a consolation and were undone. Johansson's breakaway goal in the 85th minute stretched the margin to three and then Wallace compounded the nightmare with two further late goals.

Eight weeks ago, when the Scottish Premier League broke for its winter shutdown, these two clubs shared the same ambition. However, the hiatus had ruined Kilmarnock's rhythm to the extent that a four-point deficit on the leaders had expanded to 15 points because of a sequence of three games without a win.

In the same period, Rangers took maximum points from four games, scoring 17 goals in the process. Dick Advocaat's team wear the mantle of champions-elect with comfort and underlined the reason why after just five minutes, when they took the lead.

The goal owed everything to Barry Ferguson, the Rangers midfield player, who jumped to his feet after a foul by Baker and sprayed a quick free kick to the right wing to release Andrei Kanchelskis. The Russia player sped away from his pursuers before delivering a low ball across the face of goal, where Neil McCann was on hand to thump it high into the net.

Just six minutes later Kanchelskis left Kilmarnock chasing shadows again before picking out Stephane Guivarc'h, but his right-foot shot flew just wide of the upright.

The home team had been hoping that the skills of Ian Durrant, their midfield player, would pose a threat, but he was anonymous in the opening half hour. Indeed, had Tony Vidmar taken advantage of a precise corner from Giovanni van Bronckhorst, then Rangers could have doubled their lead — but he scooped his shot over the bar from six yards out.

Kilmarnock eventually reversed the flow of pressure, but could not create a clear chance for themselves and Stefan Klos, the Rangers goalkeeper, simply did not have a save to ward off the bitter cold.

Gordon Marshall, the Kilmarnock goalkeeper, could not say the same. He was forced to produce a fine stop in the 48th minute, pushing a fierce, dipping shot from Kanchelskis over the bar, after the former Manchester United player had cut inside from the right wing.



McCann: opening goal

McCoist and Wright, Kilmarnock's forwards, had both been reduced to spectators by this stage, which perhaps contributed to McCoist squandering a fine opportunity in the 63rd minute to put his side back in contention.

A low cross by Burke on the right begged to be finished, but McCoist, a former Rangers player, struck his shot straight at Klos.

Wallace, McCoist's heir at Rangers, showed how it should be done in the 74th minute as he ruthlessly drove in McCann's cross to double Rangers' advantage.

KILMARNOCK (4-4-2): G Marshall — S Hamilton (sub: A Mitchell, 72min), K McGowne, R Montgomerie, M Baker — A Burke, G Holt, I Durrant, M Reilly — A McCoist (sub: M Roberts, 53min), P Wright.

RANGERS (3-5-2): S Klos — S Porrini (sub: S Nicholson, 83), L Amoruso, T Vidmar — A Kanchelskis, G van Bronckhorst, J Albertz (sub: [illegible], 70), N McCann — R Wallace, S Guivarc'h.

Referee: S Dougal

Chapple gains head start

Kingstonian 1
Yeovil Town 0

By Walter Gammie

THE embrace between Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager, and Colin Lippiatt, the Yeovil Town head coach, was heartfelt. As manager and coach, they shared much at Woking, including three FA Umbro Trophy triumphs at Wembley, so Chapple shared his old mate's pain after Kingstonian had seized a quarter-final place with a late goal at Kingsmeadow on Saturday.

"I thought it was going to be 0-0," Chapple said. "But it was a brilliant free kick and a brilliant header."

The winner came as a blinding flash of inspiration in a contest full of unyielding defending, committed work in midfield and a dearth of clear-cut chances. Kofi Nyamah swung a curving free kick from the right touchline with his left foot and Simon Stewart timed his run to perfection to beat Pennock.

Kingstonian's goal came after Leworthy had turned Hannigan and bounced a shot off the bar. For Yeovil, Pickard got behind the defence in the first half but failed to make his chances count on a bobbling pitch and Fishlock thumped a second-half free kick against the bar.

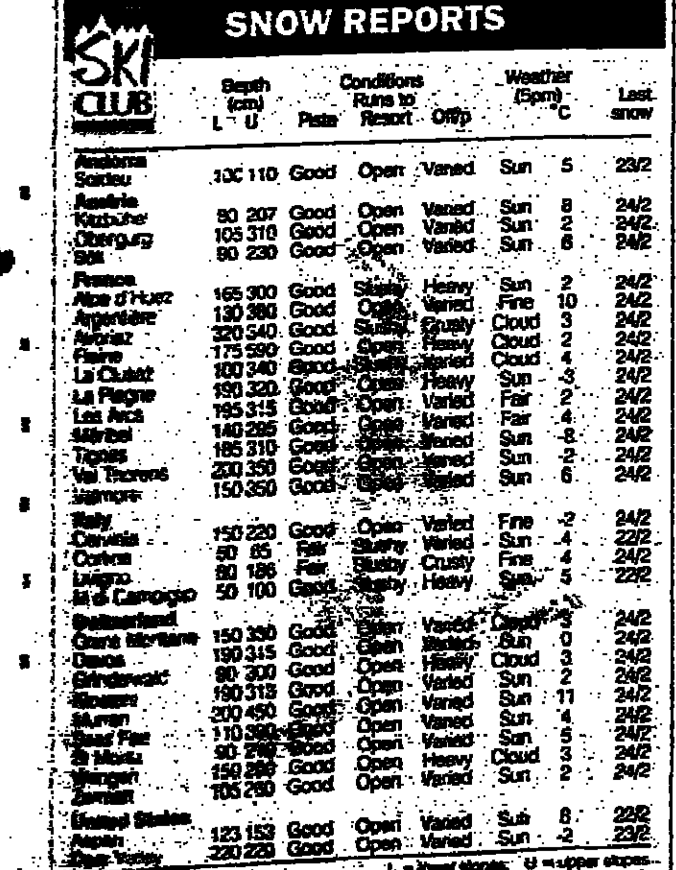
A sub-plot was supplied by referee D'Urso, who, having issued bookings to Patterson, of Kingstonian, and Brown, of Yeovil, first shrank from issuing merited second yellow cards to Patterson and then Brown for late tackles. Consistent, at least.

Chapple has high ambitions. He revealed a plan for a £1-million redevelopment to bring Kingsmeadow to Nationwide League standards has council support. Meanwhile, Wembley beckons. "The Trophy is something you get a taste for," he said. "Clive Walker's got four medals — I'd like to emulate that."

KINGSTONIAN (3-5-2): S Farrelly — S Stewart, M Crossley, M Harris — T Mustafa, K Rattray, G Patterson, G Fisher, K Nyamah — E Akuamoah, D Leworthy.

YEOVIL TOWN (3-5-2): A Pennock — A-J Hannigan, R Cousins, K Brown — D Chandler, P Simpson, S Stott (sub: A Pounder, 69min), S Thompson, M Fishlock — O Pickard, W Patmore.

Referee: A D'Urso.



SKI CLUB — SNOW REPORTS

Resort	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off-p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	100	110	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	23/2
Austria								
Kitzbühel	90	207	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	8	24/2
Obergurgl	105	310	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	24/2
Söll	90	230	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	24/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	165	300	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	2	24/2
Argentière	130	380	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	10	24/2
Avoriaz	320	540	Good	Slushy	Crusty	Cloud	3	24/2
Flaine	175	590	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	2	24/2
La Clusaz	100	340	Good	Slushy	Varied	Cloud	4	24/2
La Plagne	190	320	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	-3	24/2
Les Arcs	195	315	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	2	24/2
Méribel	140	295	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	4	24/2
Tignes	185	310	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-8	24/2
Val Thorens	230	350	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	24/2
Valmorel	150	350	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	24/2
Italy								
Cervinia	150	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	24/2
Cortina	50	85	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Sun	-4	22/2
Livigno	80	186	Fair	Slushy	Crusty	Fine	4	24/2
Mad di Campiglio	50	100	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	5	22/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	150	350	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	3	24/2
Davos	190	315	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	24/2
Grindelwald	90	300	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	3	24/2
Klosters	190	313	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	24/2
Mürren	200	450	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	11	24/2
Saas Fee	110	390	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	4	24/2
St Moritz	90	[illegible]	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	5	24/2
Wengen	150	[illegible]	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	3	24/2
Zermatt	105	280	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	24/2
United States								
Aspen	123	153	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	6	22/2
Deer Valley	220	220	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	23/2

L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes.

[illegible]

Venables is in running says White

NOEL WHITE, chairman of the Football Association's international committee, has left the door open for Terry Venables to return as England coach. Kevin Keegan, caretaker manager of the national side, has insisted he does not want the job full time and will concentrate on trying to take Fulham into the FA Carling Premiership after his four-game run ends in June.

White is viewed as one of the men behind the departure of Venables from the England job in 1996 and was believed to have been opposed to his return after the dismissal of Glenn Hoddle.

However, White said yesterday: "We will look at certain names put before us and Terry's will almost certainly be among those. I've never queried his coaching qualities and never would. Nobody is saying that Terry Venables will not be the next England coach. He could do a good job."

The FA claimed yesterday it has not been embarrassed by revelations that Keegan has used a faith healer in the past. Hoddle, his predecessor, was heavily criticised for involving Eileen Drewer, a faith healer, with the England squad. The FA is satisfied that Keegan will not involve follow his example.

Steve Double, FA spokesman, said: "Kevin stated publicly the day after he accepted the position that he would not be using faith healers."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This deal involves a slight wrinkle in the well-known safety play in hearts. Plan the play in Six Hearts.

Dealer South East-West game Teams

West	North	East	South
♠ Q 9 4	♠ A K 10 5	♠ J 7 6 3 2	♠ 8
♡ Q 10 3 2	♡ K 9 4	♡ —	♡ A J 8 7 6 5
◇ K Q 8 7	◇ 2	◇ J 10 6 5 4	◇ A 9 3
♣ 7 2	♣ A K Q 10 4	♣ 8 6 5	♣ J 9 3

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of diamonds.

The trump suit has to be played for one loser, and the main problem is to play it in a way to guard against four hearts with either defender. There are various ways of doing that, but starting with the ace is not one of them when you consider the rest of the hand. With the layout above, if West splits his honours when you continue with a low heart towards the nine you have an easy task: discard one diamond on the king of spades and ruff one in the dummy before playing any more trumps. But if West plays a low heart, allowing you to win the nine, you have to go off - whether or not you play a third round of trumps. West will be able to ruff in on the third round of clubs, and another diamond from him beats the contract. Similarly, if West shows out on the first round of heart you are in trouble if East started with two or fewer clubs.

The solution is to arrange to keep a small trump in dummy. Play a low heart and put in the nine if West plays low, and if East then shows out play on clubs. If West is void you take the king of hearts and continue with a heart from dummy.

□ The BBL have announced the British teams for the 44th Generali European Championships which will be held in Malta at the end of June.

The Open team is: John Collings, Martin Jones, Gary Hyett, Alan Mould, Gerald Tredinnick, Stuart Tredinnick, captain: Chris Dixon, coach: David Burn.

The Women's team is: Pat Davies, Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Liz McGowan, Sandra Landy, Abbey Walker, captain: Jimmie Arthur, coach: Phil King.

The teams are competing for a berth in the World Championships to be held in Bermuda early in 2000.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Linares

With the first half of the elite tournament at Linares almost completed, Garry Kasparov has maintained a slight lead over a dangerous pack of pursuing rivals. After six rounds the scores are as follows: Kasparov (Russia) 4; Anand (India) and Kramnik (Russia) 3.5; Adams (England), Svidler (Russia) and Topalov (Bulgaria); Leko (Hungary) 2.5; Ivanchuk (Ukraine) 1.5.

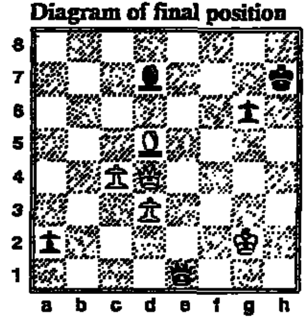
Michael Adams, Britain's representative in the tournament, had a storming start but fell back after a loss to Kasparov (given today) followed by another loss to Kramnik.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Garry Kasparov
Linares 1999
Sicilian Defence

	White	Black
1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	d6
3	g3	Nc6
4	Bg2	g6
5	d3	Bg7
6	Be3	Nf6
7	Nge2	0-0
8	h3	e5
9	0-0	b5
10	Nxb5	Rb8
11	a4	a6
12	Na3	Rxb2
13	Nc4	Rb8
14	f4	exf4
15	Nxf4	Na5
16	Nd2	Bd7
17	Ra2	Bc6
18	Nf3	Ba8
19	c4	Nd7
20	Raf2	Nb3
21	h4	Nd4
22	Bh3	Nxf3+
23	Qxf3	Ne5
24	Qd1	Qe7
25	h5	Rb4
26	h6	Bh8
27	Ne6	Rfb8
28	Ng5	Rb2
29	Bf4	Bf6
30	Nf3	Bc6
31	Nxe5	Bxe5
32	Qf3	f5
33	Bxe5	Qxe5
34	g4	Rxf2
35	Rxf2	Rb1+
36	Bf1	Rb2
37	Rxb2	Qxb2
38	gxf5	Qd4+
39	Kh1	Bxa4
40	fxg6	hxg6
41	e5	Qxe5
42	Qb7	Be8
43	Bg2	Qh5+
44	Kg1	Qxh6
45	Qe7	Qc1+
46	Bf1	Bf7
47	Qxd6	Qe3+
48	Kh1	a5
49	Qd8+	Be8
50	Bg2	Qe1+
51	Kh2	Qe5+
52	Kh3	Kg7
53	Bd5	a4
54	Qb6	Bd7+
55	Kg2	Qe2+
56	Kg1	a3
57	Qxc5	Qe1+
58	Kg2	a2
59	Qd4+	Kh7

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechessaol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HARMONIAN
a. A musician
b. A desert heretic
c. An instrument

JULIENNE
a. A tart
b. A revolutionary
c. Soup

KIST
a. An accent
b. Sulky
c. A chest

HANDSEL
a. Gingerbread
b. To present
c. A curved chisel

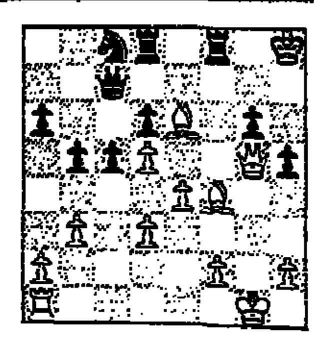
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Capece — Astengo, Genau 1998.

How did White complete his kingside attack with a fine regrouping manoeuvre?



Solution on page 46

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 **COVENTRY** (1) 4
Dublin 55 (pen) — Aloisi 25, 73; Boateng 51, 84
38,799

Aston Villa: M Oakes, A Wright, G Southgate, S Watson (sub: G Barry 44min), R Scimeca, I Taylor (sub: M Draper 39; sub: S Collymore 55), P Merson, S Grayson, L Hendrie, D Dublin, J Joachim.

Booked: Grayson, Hendrie, Southgate, Dublin.

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, D Burrows, P Williams, R Shaw, G McAllister, S Froggatt, G Boateng, P Telfer, D Huckerby (sub: G McSheffrey 90), J Aloisi.

Booked: Williams. Referee: U Rennie.

CHARLTON (0) 0 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 0
20,007

Charlton Athletic: S Royce, D Mills, C Powell, K Jones, C Tiler, N Redfearn, J Robinson, S Brown, M Kinsella, A Hunt (sub: C Mendonca 72min), M Pringle.

Booked: Tiler, Robinson.

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, M Jean, S Stensaas, S Chettle, T Bonalair, S Gemmill, S Stone, C Edwards, C Palmer, P van Hooijdonk, J Darcheville (sub: N Shipperley 62).

Booked: Louis-Jean, Palmer, Darcheville.

Referee: S Lodge.

CHELSEA (2) 2 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 1
Leboeuf 7 (pen), Goldbaek 38 — Owen 77
34,822

Chelsea: E De Goey, A Ferrer, M Desailly, F Leboeuf (sub: B Lambourde 33min), G Le Saux (sub: E Newton 82), D Petrescu, J Morris, R Di Matteo, B Goldbaek, T A Flo (sub: M Forssell 86), G Zola.

Booked: Le Saux.

Liverpool: D James, V Heggem (sub: S McManaman 9), B Kvarme, D Matteo, P Babb, S I Bjornebye, P Berger (sub: K Riedle 80), J Redknapp, P Ince (sub: J Ferri 48), M Owen, R Fowler.

Booked: Fowler.

Referee: P Durkin.

EVERTON (0) 1 **WIMBLEDON** (1) 1
Jeffers 67 — Ekoku 14
32,574

Everton: T Myhre, M Ball, O Dacourt, D Watson, D Unsworth, N Barmby, M Materazzi, D Weir, J Oster (sub: M Branch 83min), D Cadamarteri, F Jeffers.

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, R Earle, E Ekoku, A Roberts, M Gayle, M Hughes, J Euell (sub: N Ardley 32).

Booked: Roberts, Thatcher.

Referee: N Barry.

MAN UTD (0) 2 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 1
Keane 79, Yorke 83 — Le Tissier 90
55,316

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen, P Neville (sub: D Irwin 79min), D Beckham, N Butt (sub: R Keane 46), P Scholes, R Giggs, D Yorke, O G Solskjaer (sub: A Cole 67).

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, K Monkou (sub: F Benali 50), C Lundekvam, P Colleter, C Marsden, M Oakley, W Bridge, D Hughes, J Beattie, E Ostenstad (sub: M Le Tissier 67).

Booked: Colleter, Le Tissier.

Referee: P Jones.

SHEFFIELD WED (1) 3 **MIDDLESBROUGH** (0) 1
Booth 11, 80; Sonner 77 — Mustoe 78
24,534

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe, N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner, P Rudi, A Booth, B Carbone.

Booked: Hinchcliffe, Carbone.

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, R Stockdale (sub: C Harrison 90min), C Cooper, G Pallister, S Vickers, D Gordon, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne (sub: N Maddison 46), A Townsend, H Ricard, M Beck.

Booked: Gascoigne, Townsend, Maddison, Schwarzer.

Referee: M Riley.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 **DERBY** (0) 1
Sherwood 69 — Burton 46
35,392
Sent off: J Edinburgh (Tottenham Hotspur) 90

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, M Taricco, R Vega, S Campbell, J Edinburgh, D Anderton, S Freund, T Sherwood, D Ginola, S Iversen, C Armstrong (sub: J Dominguez 66min).

Booked: Edinburgh, Freund.

Derby County: R Hoult, J Laursen, H Carbonari, S Schnoor, A Dorigo (sub: K Harper 73), S Elliott (sub: S Prior 40), L Carsley, L Bohinen, F Baiano (sub: J Hunt 73), D Burton, P Wanchope.

Booked: Carsley, Wanchope, Burton.

Referee: J Winter.

WEST HAM (2) 2 **BLACKBURN** (0) 0
Pearce 28, Di Canio 31
25,529

West Ham: S Hislop, S Potts, R Ferdinand, I Pearce, S Lomas, F Lampard, E Berkovic, M Foe, M Keller, P Di Canio, T Sinclair.

Booked: Foe.

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J McAteer, D Peacock, M Broomes, C Davidson, K Gillespie, D Dunn (sub: G Croft 64min), M Jansen (sub: K Davies 51), J Wilcox (sub: D Duff 55), N Blake, A Ward.

Booked: Peacock, McAteer. Referee: S Dunn.

Yesterday

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 **ARSENAL** (1) 1
Hamann 77 — Anelka 36
36,708

Newcastle United: S Given, L Charvet, S Howey, N Dabizas, D Domi, D Hamann, N Solano (sub: T Ketsbaia 58min), G Speed, G Brady (sub: R Lee 59), L Saha, A Shearer.

Booked: Hamann, Dabizas.

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, M Keown, T Adams, N Winterburn, R Garde (sub: S Hughes 3), R Parlour, P Vieira, M Overmars (sub: M Upson 84), N Anelka, D Bergkamp.

Booked: Overmars, Bergkamp. Referee: M Reed.

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON (0) 1 **CREWE** (2) 3
Holdsworth 55 (pen) — Johnson 13; Jack 33, 46
19,437

BRADFORD (1) 1 **WEST BROM** (0) 0
Jacobs 3 — 14,278

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (0) 1
14,065 — Naylor 56

GRIMSBY (0) 0 **BIRMINGHAM** (1) 3
7,807 — Ndlovu 36, Adebola 85, Rowett 90

NORWICH (1) 1 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 1
Llewellyn 20 — Devlin 55
14,224

OXFORD UTD (0) 0 **SUNDERLAND** (0) 0
9,044

PORTSMOUTH (3) 4 **PORT VALE** (0) 0
McLoughlin 29 (pen), Whittingham 36, 39, 89 — 12,838
Sent off: N Aspin (Port Vale) 76

STOCKPORT (0) 0 **QPR** (0) 0
7,694

TRANMERE (1) 4 **BURY** (0) 0
Allen 23, O'Brien 56, Taylor 66, Koumas 79 — 6,002

WOLVES (1) 2 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 2
Robinson 10, Gray 64 (og) — Gray 59, Hamilton 90
21,778

Yesterday

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 **BARNSLEY** (0) 0
Mullins 24 — 17,021

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Watford 0 Swindon 1.

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 2 **WYCOMBE** (0) 0
Robinson 24, 34 — 6,693

BURNLEY (0) 0 **GILLINGHAM** (4) 5
6,981 — Taylor 14, 27, 41, 43 (pen), 48

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 **MAN CITY** (0) 1
Reeves 32 — Crooks 51
8,245

COLCHESTER (1) 1 **READING** (0) 1
N Gregory 8 — Parkinson 81
4,686

LINCOLN (0) 1 **BRISTOL R** (0) 0
Holmes 71 — 4,235

LUTON (0) 1 **BLACKPOOL** (0) 0
Douglas 54 — 4,646

MACCLESFIELD (0) 0 **WIGAN** (1) 1
3,706 — Lee 6

NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 **MILLWALL** (0) 2
Corazzin 80 — Nethercott 59, Sadlier 87
5,490
Sent off: S Reid (Millwall) 82

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 2 **WALSALL** (1) 1
Creaney 75, Hendon 81 (pen) — Rammell 35
6,172

PRESTON (1) 2 **OLDHAM** (1) 1
Nogan 24, Jackson 65 — Mardon 45
12,985

STOKE (0) 1 **WREXHAM** (1) 3
Sigurdsson 82 — McGregor 8, Owen 54, Connolly 67
10,765

YORK (0) 0 **FULHAM** (2) 3
5,159 — Horsfield 40, Hayles 45, Peschisolido 52

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 0 **EXETER** (0) 1
2,072 — Tosh 50

BRENTFORD (0) 1 **SCARBOROUGH** (1) 1
Bryan 79 — Tate 19
4,783

BRIGHTON (0) 1 **LEYTON ORIENT** (0) 2
Nicholls 70 — Griffiths 64 (pen), Lockwood 71
4,825
Sent off: D Smith (Leyton Orient) 57, A Arnott (Brighton) 45

CAMBRIDGE U (1) 3 **SOUTHEND** (0) 0
Taylor 45, 79; Butler 74 — 5,013

CHESTER (0) 2 **CARLISLE** (0) 1
Richardson 62, Murphy 72 — Stevens 50
2,450

HALIFAX (0) 0 **HULL** (0) 1
4,455 — D Brown 54

HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 0
2,680

MANSFIELD (1) 2 **SCUNTHORPE** (1) 1
Peacock 26, 87 — Forrester 9
3,208

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 **PETERBOROUGH** (2) 2
5,959 — Andrews 3, Broughton 31

ROCHDALE (1) 1 **CARDIFF** (0) 1
Peake 44 — Legg 76
2,431

SHREWSBURY (1) 3 **DARLINGTON** (0) 0
Evans 11 (pen), Steele 52, 90 — 2,624

SWANSEA (0) 0 **TORQUAY** (0) 0
5,594

SCOTLAND

SPL SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CELTIC (0) 2 **DUNDEE UTD** (1) 1
Burley 74, Larsson 78 — Dodds 25
59,902

DUNDEE (0) 0 **ST JOHNSTONE** (1) 1
7,245 — Grant 7

HEARTS (0) 0 **ABERDEEN** (0) 2
13,957 — Bernard 53, Wyness 71

MOTHERWELL (0) 1 **DUNFERMLINE** (0) 1
McCulloch 48 — Britton 86
6,094

Yesterday

KILMARNOCK (0) 0 **RANGERS** (1) 5
16,242 — McCann 5; Wallace 75, 87, 90; Johansson 85

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (1) 1 **HIBERNIAN** (2) 3
Ferguson 5 (pen) — Crawford 19 (pen), 44, 77
5,010

RAITH (0) 0 **AIRDRIE** (0) 1
1,913 — Evans 56

ST MIRREN (0) 1 **HAMILTON** (0) 0
B O'Brien 60 — 2,310

STRANRAER (0) 0 **FALKIRK** (1) 1
567 — Keith 3

POSTPONED: Clydebank v GK Morton (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Away win).

SECOND DIVISION

EAST FIFE (0) 0 **ALLOA** (4) 4
614 — Irvine 6; Cameron 12, 15, 23

FORFAR (1) 2 **PARTICK** (1) 1
Honeyman 8, Brand 61 — Jamieson 43
660

INVERNESS C (2) 3 **LIVINGSTON** (1) 1
McLean 24, Wilson 31, Shearer 70 — McCormick 9
3,279
Sent off: P Deas (Livingston) 72, L Fridge (Inverness Cal.) 86

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 3 **ARBROATH** (0) 0
Leslie 49, Townsley 59, 78 — 1,020

STIRLING (1) 2 **CLYDE** (1) 3
Price 40, 56 — Convery 11, 67; Carrigan 57
888

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (1) 3 **ROSS COUNTY** (2) 3
Donaldson 12, 49; McStay 73 — Ferguson 4, Wood 35, McStay 59 (og)
432

EAST STIRLING (1) 4 **BRECHIN** (1) 1
Laidlaw 21, Ward 52, Smith 67, Kennedy 83 — Kerrigan 27
219

MONTROSE (0) 0 **BERWICK** (1) 3
325 — D Smith 5; Leask 56, 65

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 **DUMBARTON** (1) 1
P Martin 88 — Bradford 7
566
Sent off: D Stewart (Dumbarton) 43

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 4 **COWDENBEATH** (1) 1
R Hamilton 9, Watters 64, Craig 71, 84 — Bradley 15
649

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

DONCASTER (1) 3 **HEREFORD** (0) 1
Duerden 14, 50; Penney 56 (pen) — Cowe 65
3,568

DOVER (0) 0 **HAYES** (0) 0
1,035

FARNBOROUGH (0) 2 **KIDDERMINSTR** (2) 4
Bailey 73, C Simpson 90 — May 4, 75; Payne 45, 57
733

HEDNESFORD (0) 1 **LEEK** (0) 1
Kimmins 78 — Ellis 83
943

KETTERING (0) 1 **WELLING** (0) 1
Williams 54 — Dolby 70 (pen)
2,371

TELFORD (0) 1 **BARROW** (1) 1
Huckerby 81 — Jones 15
749

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	33	10	4	4	26	13	8	4	3	22	12	62
Cheltenham	28	7	5	1	24	9	10	3	2	27	11	59
Rushden	28	8	2	3	28	13	7	6	2	20	10	53
Dover	31	6	7	3	20	13	7	3	5	24	19	49
Hayes	30	7	3	5	22	19	7	3	5	20	21	48
Stevenage	28	6	8	1	24	16	5	4	4	13	13	45
Yeovil	28	5	3	6	24	23	7	6	1	18	12	45
Kingstonian	28	6	6	3	22	16	5	5	3	19	21	44
Hednesford	29	7	6	2	21	15	3	7	4	13	14	43
Northwich	29	7	2	5	18	14	5	5	5	17	19	43
Kidderminstr	30	7	3	6	22	15	3	5	6	18	18	38
Hereford	31	5	3	6	13	14	5	4	8	21	23	37
Woking	27	5	3	5	14	15	5	3	6	16	16	36
Doncaster	31	6	3	6	20	20	3	6	7	17	22	36
Morecambe	31	6	5	5	25	24	4	1	10	21	39	36
Forest Green	25	5	2	4	15	13	3	6	5	19	18	32
Leek Town	30	5	4	4	26	20	3	3	11	13	25	31
Barrow	31	6	4	7	14	18	2	3	9	16	30	31
Telford	31	3	8	5	15	21	3	4	8	17	29	30
Southport	28	3	6	5	20	24	3	5	6	14	21	29
Welling	31	2	6	8	11	21	3	4	8	17	27	25
Farnborough	30	5	2	8	24	38	1	5	9	10	28	25

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 1 Cagliari 1; Empoli 0 Sampdoria 1; Internazionale 0 Juventus 0; Parma 3 Perugia 1; Piacenza 5 Bologna 0; AS Roma 1 AC Milan 0; Salernitana 1 Fiorentina 1; Venezia 1 Udinese 0. Vicenza 1 Lazio 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	23	14	6	3	46	22	48
Parma	23	12	8	3	43	22	44
Fiorentina	23	13	5	5	38	20	44
AC Milan	23	12	7	4	34	25	43
Udinese	23	10	8	7	31	29	38
Internazionale	23	10	5	8	43	30	35
AS Roma	23	9	8	6	43	31	35
Juventus	23	9	7	7	25	23	34
Bologna	23	8	8	7	28	25	32
Venezia	23	7	7	9	22	30	28
Bari	23	5	12	6	26	31	27
Cagliari	23	7	5	11	31	35	26
Perugia	23	7	4	12	30	42	25
Sampdoria	23	5	8	10	22	40	23
Piacenza	23	5	7	11	32	37	22
Salernitana	23	5	5	13	23	39	20
Vicenza	23	4	8	11	12	29	20
Empoli	23	3	8	12	18	38	15

Empoli deducted 2 points.

GERMAN LEAGUE: TSV 1860 Munich 0 MSV Duisburg 0; Borussia Dortmund 3 Nuremburg 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Borussia Mönchengladbach 0; SV Hamburg 0 Bayer Leverkusen 0; Hansa Rostock 0 Bayern Munich 4; Kaiserslautern 1 VfB Stuttgart 1; SC Freiburg 0 VfL Wolfsburg 0; Schalke 04 0 Hertha Berlin 0; Werder Bremen 1 VfL Bochum 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	20	16	2	2	50	13	50
Bayer Leverkusen	20	10	8	2	41	19	38
Kaiserslautern	20	11	5	4	32	29	38
TSV 1860 Munich	20	10	6	4	35	25	36
Hertha Berlin	20	10	3	7	29	19	33
Borussia Dortmund	20	9	5	6	31	21	32
VfL Wolfsburg	20	7	8	5	35	29	29
Werder Bremen	20	6	7	7	28	27	25
SV Hamburg	19	6	7	6	23	28	25
VfB Stuttgart	20	6	7	7	26	27	25
SC Freiburg	20	5	9	6	22	24	24
Schalke 04	20	5	7	8	21	31	22
VfL Bochum	19	5	5	9	23	34	20
MSV Duisburg	20	4	8	8	20	32	20
Eintracht Frankfurt	20	4	6	10	22	33	18
Hansa Rostock	20	3	8	9	27	39	17
Nuremburg	20	2	10	8	21	37	16
Mönchengladbach	20	2	5	13	20	48	11

SPANISH LEAGUE: Athletic Bilbao 0 Celta Vigo 0; Atlético Madrid 0 Real Oviedo 0; Barcelona 2 Valencia 4; Real Mallorca 1 Tenerife 1; Racing Santander 2 Alavés 0; Real Betis 3 Real Madrid 2; Real Zaragoza 3 Extremadura 1; Real Valladolid 4 Salamanca 1; Villarreal 2 Español 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	24	13	5	6	50	29	44
Real Mallorca	24	12	6	6	26	16	42
Valencia	24	12	4	8	38	25	40
Celta Vigo	24	10	9	5	44	27	39
*Deportivo La Coruña	23	10	8	5	33	25	38
Athletic Bilbao	24	11	5	8	30	29	38
Real Madrid	24	11	4	9	46	39	37
Real Zaragoza	24	10	6	8	35	32	36
Real Oviedo	24	9	8	7	31	33	35
Real Betis	24	9	7	8	25	26	34
Atlético Madrid	24	9	6	9	39	30	33
*Real Sociedad	23	9	6	8	32	29	33
Español	24	7	11	6	27	26	32
Racing Santander	24	7	8	9	30	32	29
Villarreal	24	7	7	10	30	35	28
Real Valladolid	23	8	5	10	25	30	26
Salamanca	24	6	4	14	20	40	22
Alavés	24	5	6	13	20	37	21
Extremadura	24	5	6	13	16	38	21
Tenerife	24	3	11	10	22	36	20

Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.
* Does not include last night's late match.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 1 Lens 2; Bastia 1 Toulouse 1; Le Havre 0 Lorient 1; Metz 1 Sochaux 1; Rennes 2 Nancy 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Ajax 5 Sparta Rotterdam 1; Cambuur Leeuwarden 2 Vitesse Arnhem 2; NEC Nijmegen 1 MVV Maastricht 1; PSV Eindhoven 2 NAC Breda 0; Roda JC Kerkrade 0 AZ Alkmaar 2; Willem II Tilburg 1 Utrecht 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Farense 2 Academica 0; CS Maritimo 2 Chaves 2; Rio Ave 1 Estrela Amadora 1; Salgueiros 1 Campomaiorense 1; União Leiria 0 Sporting Braga 0.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Beveren 0 Standard Liege 6; ASC Charleroi 1 Ghent 1; FC Bruges 4 Lokeren 0; Mouscron 2 Ostend 1; Germinal Ekeren 0 Harelbeke 2; Lommel 0 Aalst 3; St-Truiden 1 Anderlecht 4 Westerlo 0 Lierse 2.

Rivaldo, left, the Barcelona forward, prepares to meet the challenge of Bjorklund, of Valencia, in the Spanish League on Saturday. Barcelona's 4-2 home defeat was their third loss in ten days to Valencia but they remain top

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 2 Spennymoor 3; Bamber Bridge 1 Winsford 1; Bishop Auckland 1 Lancaster 1; Chorley 2 Gateshead 2; Frickley 1 Marine 1; Hyde 3 Guiseley 1; Leigh RMI 3 Blyth Spartans 2; Stalybridge 2 Gainsborough 0; Worksop 2 Runcorn 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bamber Bridge	33	15	12	6	55	40	57
Altrincham	28	16	7	5	50	22	55
Worksop	30	16	6	8	43	33	54
Gateshead	32	15	8	9	58	44	53
Winsford Utd	32	12	12	8	46	37	48
Hyde Utd	30	13	8	9	48	31	47
Guiseley	26	14	3	9	44	33	45
Gainsborough	31	13	5	13	45	44	44
Whitby Town	27	11	10	6	56	45	43
Blyth Spartans	33	12	5	16	48	52	41
Emley	27	10	10	7	34	30	40
Marine	34	8	15	11	50	55	39
Leigh RMI	27	9	11	7	45	40	38
Stalybridge	30	9	10	11	49	47	37
Frickley	29	8	13	8	40	44	37
Lancaster	30	9	10	11	41	47	37
Bishop Auck	34	8	11	15	41	59	35
Spennymoor	33	9	7	17	44	62	34
Runcorn	27	7	12	8	30	36	33
Colwyn Bay	26	8	6	12	37	46	30
Chorley	32	5	12	15	37	57	27
Accrington S	31	5	5	21	28	63	20

FIRST DIVISION: Alfreton 0 Flixton 0; Ashton 6 Whitley Bay 3; Burscough 1 Bradford PA 1; Eastwood Town 2 Radcliffe 0; Farsley Celtic 2 Congleton 2; Gretna 2 Droylsden 5; Harrogate Town 1 Hucknall 0; Matlock Town 1 Great Harwood 2; Netherfield Kendal 1 Witton 0; Trafford 1 Stocksbridge PS 3.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Bromsgrove 0 Salisbury 2; Dorchester 1 Cambridge City 1; Gloucester 2 King's Lynn 1; Grantham 3 Rothwell 0; Gresley 2 Atherstone 1; Ilkeston 3 Crawley 1; Merthyr 2 Nuneaton 1; Tamworth 1 Hastings 5; Weymouth 0 Burton 0; Worcester 3 Halesowen 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	32	21	6	5	70	26	69
Gloucester City	31	15	9	7	45	36	54
Salisbury	30	14	7	9	42	41	49
Ilkeston Tn	31	13	9	9	50	38	48
Boston Utd	30	11	13	6	51	33	46
Bath City	29	13	7	9	43	29	46
Crawley Town	29	13	7	9	43	40	46
Grantham	30	13	4	13	43	42	43
Weymouth	30	11	9	10	42	39	42
Atherstone	29	10	11	8	39	33	41
Worcester City	29	12	5	12	38	40	41
Tamworth	29	13	2	14	45	48	41
Halesowen	31	11	7	13	44	44	40
Hastings	29	10	8	11	30	30	38
Burton Albion	30	11	5	14	38	42	38
Merthyr	31	11	5	15	40	51	38
Gresley Rovers	31	11	4	16	35	52	37
Cambridge City	31	9	9	13	36	50	36
King's Lynn	29	9	6	14	37	40	33
Dorchester	30	7	11	12	38	45	32
Rothwell Town	28	8	8	12	29	47	32
Bromsgrove	31	6	4	21	28	60	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 1 Solihull Boro 2; Bilston 5 Bloxwich 2; Evesham 2 Hinckley 2; Moor Green 0 VS Rugby 1; RC Warwick 0 Newport AFC 0; Redditch 2 Stamford AFC 0; Weston-super-Mare 4 Sutton Coldfield Town 2; Wisbech 3 Stourbridge 3. Postponed: Cinderford v Shepshed Dynamo; Paget v Clevedon. Southern division: Andover 2 Baldock 2; Chelmsford 4 Newport IoW 3; Cirencester 3 Fleet 5; Erith and Belvedere 0 Corby 2; Fisher London 0 Ashford 1; Folkestone Invicta 3 Yate 2; Margate 2 Brackley 0; Raunds 7 Dartford 0; Sittingbourne 0 Havant and Waterlooville 1; Witney 1 St Leonards 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 3 Stratford 1; Chasetown 0 Willenhall 0; Halesowen Harriers 3 Stapenhill 1; Kings Norton 1 Pelsall Villa 0; Oldbury 5 Boldmere St Michaels 1; Pershore 1 Rocester 2; Shifnal T 2 Rushall Olympic 1; Stourport 1 Sandwell 2; Wednesfield 2 Knypersley 1. Postponed: Bridgnorth v West Midlands Police.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aldershot 4 Carshalton 0; Aylesbury 4 Bishop's Stortford 2; Basingstoke 1 Hampton 0; Boreham Wood 0 Billericay 0; Gravesend 2 Walton and Hersham 0; Harrow 0 Slough 2; Purfleet 1 Bromley 0; Sutton 2 Dulwich 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	28	18	6	4	50	21	60
Sutton Utd	27	17	4	6	55	30	55
Purfleet	31	17	4	10	55	38	55
St Albans	28	14	9	5	50	33	51
Gravesend	27	14	4	9	39	30	46
Billericay Tn	30	12	10	8	36	30	46
Enfield	27	13	6	8	47	31	45
Aldershot Tn	27	12	7	8	60	27	43
Boreham Wood	30	10	12	8	44	45	42
Dag & Red	26	11	7	8	48	37	40
Basingstoke	27	11	7	9	42	34	40
Slough	29	11	7	11	42	40	40
Hendon	26	10	8	8	47	42	38
Harrow Boro	29	10	6	13	42	46	36
Chesham	26	9	5	12	42	49	32
Dulwich	29	8	7	14	31	41	31
Walton & H	31	8	5	18	34	63	29
Carshalton	32	7	7	18	34	67	28
Bromley	29	7	6	16	40	52	27
Heybridge	27	7	6	14	27	54	27
Hampton	28	6	8	14	28	52	26
Bishop's S	28	5	7	16	38	69	22

FIRST DIVISION: Barton 0 Leatherhead 0; Berkhamsted 0 Yeading 3; Braintree 0 Wembley 1; Canvey Island 2 Croydon 1; Maidenhead 0 Bognor Regis 0; Molesey 0 Romford 1; Oxford City 0 Grays 0; Uxbridge 5 Whyteleafe 0; Worthing 1 Chertsey 1. Postponed: Leyton Pennant v Staines. Second division: Abingdon Town 3 Harlow 2; Barking 1 Thame 1; Chalfont St Peter 1 Bedford Town 2; Hemel Hempstead 1 Wokingham 2; Horsham 6 Marlow 2; Leighton 1 Wivenhoe 4; Met Police 3 Witham 3; Northwood 2 Bracknell 1; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Edgware 1; Windsor and Eton 1 Hungerford 0. Postponed: Banstead v Hertford. Third division: Camberley 3 East Thurrock 3; Clapton 0 Cheshunt 0; Corinthian-Casuals 2 Flackwell Heath 1; Ford 1 Epsom and Ewell 2; Hornchurch 3 Tring 2; Kingsbury 1 Croydon 0; Lewes 4 Egham 1; Southall 4 Dorking 4; Tilbury 0 Aveley 1, Wingate and Finchley 0 Ware 3.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Barnet 3 Portsmouth 3; Cambridge Utd 2 Swindon 3; Colchester Utd 2 Luton 0; Gillingham 0 Bournemouth 2; Leyton Orient 2 Brentford 0; Oxford Utd 0 Southend Utd 3; Reading 3 Bristol 1; Wycombe 1 Brighton 0.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Charlton 0 QPR 3; Chelsea 3 Southampton 0; Crewe 1 Man Utd 0; Fulham 3 Bristol 1; Leicester 0 Leeds 2; Liverpool 3 Blackburn 2; Middlesbrough 0 Newcastle 2; Nottm Forest 4 Derby 0; Sunderland 1 Barnsley 1; Tottenham 2 Arsenal 2; Watford 2 Millwall 3; West Ham 1 Peterborough 0. Other Matches Postponed. Under-17: Blackburn 2 Liverpool 0; Crewe 1 Man Utd 1; Derby 2 Nottm Forest 1; Fulham 2 Bristol 3; Leeds 2 Leicester 3; Middlesbrough 1 Newcastle 2; QPR 2 Charlton 2; Sunderland 2 Barnsley 1; Watford 2 Millwall 1; Postponed: Aston Villa v Everton; Southampton v Coventry.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bustleholme 3 Ludlow 0; Cradley 2 Brierley Hill 2; Dudley Town 2 Walsall Wood 1; Lye 0 Smethwick 0; Stafford 2 Kington 3; Star 6 Wolverhampton 0; Tividale 1 Tipton 2; Westfields 3 Darlaston 0. Postponed: Ettingshall v Malvern; Wolverhampton Casuals v Gornal.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wallingford 1 Chipstead 1; Ashford 5 Cove 0; Chessington and Hook 3 Walton Casuals 0; Farnham 5 Cranleigh 0; Fe... 0 Merstham 0; Hartley Wintney 1 Cobham 5; Reading 3 Bedfont 5; Sandhurst 1 Netherne 1; Viking Sports 3 Godalming and Guildford 1. Postponed: Raynes PV v Ash.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Brentwoods 1 Bradfieldians 1; Old Reptonians 3 Etonians 2. First division: Aldenhamians 4 Wellingburians 1; Haberdashers 1 Witleians 2. Arthur Dunn Cup: Wykehamists 2 Lancing 2.

FA UMBRO TROPHY

FIFTH ROUND: Boston 2 Altrincham 0; Cheltenham 3 Hendon 0; Dag and Red 1 St Albans 2; Emley 2 Whitby 0; Hitchin 1 Forest Green 2; Kingstonian 1 Yeovil 0; Northwich 3 Colwyn Bay 1; Woking 0 Southport 0.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Glossop North End 2 Skelmersdale 2; Holker Old Boys 1 Atherton LR 1; Kidsgrove 2 Workington 0; Leek CS OB 1 Mossley 2; Maine Road 1 Atherton Collieries 0; Nantwich 1 Clitheroe 2; Ramsbottom 1 Bootle 2; Rossendale 3 Cheadle 2. League Cup: Semi-finals: Prescot Cables 2 Newcastle Town 0; St Helens 1 Vauxhall G M 2.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 1 Consett 0; Chester-le-Street 1 Guisborough 0; Crook 0 Seaham Red Star 0; Easington 1 Billingham Town 3; Jarrow Roofing 1 Dunston Federation 2; Shildon 1 Newcastle Blue Star 2; South Shields 0 Bedlington Terriers 5; Tow Law 2 Morpeth 1; West Auckland 0 Marske 2.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 1 Hallen 0; Banbury 5 Swindon Supermarine 1; Bicester 0 Shortwood 0; Fairford 0 Tuffley 1; Harrow Hill 3 Kintbury 4; Highworth 2 Didcot 3; North Leigh 2 EFC Cheltenham 1; Wantage 2 Carterton 3. Postponed: Almondsbury v Burnham.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Boldmere Swifts 3 Coventry Sphinx 0; Continental Star 0 Massey Ferguson 2; Dudley Sports 0 Coleshill 4; Handrahan Timbers 0 Cheslyn Hay 1; Kenilworth 2 Studley BKL 1; Meir KA 1 Feckenham 0. Postponed: Alvechurch v Southam; Kings Heath v Highgate. Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Thimblemill Rec 0 Alveston 4.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 0 Lowestoft 2; Fakenham 1 Harwich and Parkeston 0; Felixstowe Port and Town 2 Ely 1; Halstead 1 Diss 0; Maldon 0 Gorleston 1; Sudbury Town 3 Newmarket 0; Sudbury Wanderers 0 Ipswich 1; Warboys 0 Wroxham 0; Watton 2 Histon 2; Woodbridge 1 Great Yarmouth 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 3 Whitchurch 1; BAT 2 Thatcham 2; Bournemouth 0 Portsmouth 4; Christchurch 0 Lymington and New Milton 3; Cowes Sports 3 Bemerton Heath 0; East Cowes 2 Downton 1; Eastleigh 1 Wimborne 1; Fareham 1 Moneyfields 1; Gosport 1 Alc Newbury 1; Hamble ASSC 0 Brockenhurst 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Liversedge 3; Arnold 4 Eccleshill 1; Denaby 2 Hallam 0; Garforth 1 Brigg 3; Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Staveley MW 1; North Ferriby 6 Maltby MW 3; Ossett Albion 1 Selby 0; Pontefract Cols 2 Pickering 0; Sheffield 1 Buxton 0; Thackley 1 Ossett Town 3.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 0 Beaconsfield Sycob 1; Barkingside 2 Harpenden 1; Brache Sparta 3 Ruislip Manor 2; Buckingham Athletic 2 Brimsdown 1; Hillingdon 1 Milton Keynes 1; London Colney 3 Islington St Mary's 0; New Bradwell St Peter 1 Potters Bar 1; Royston 0 Brook House 3; Somersett Ambury 0 Welwyn Garden 0; St Margaretsbury 3 Hoddesdon 3. Postponed: Haringey v Toddington.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield OG 1 Old Ignatians 3; Old Aloysians 5 Glyn OB 0; Old Salvatorians 3 Old Meadonians 2; Old Vaughanians 3 Old Hamptonians 0. Postponed: Old Tenisonians v Old Buckwellians. Senior first division: Latymer OB 4 Phoenix OB 0; Old Dorkinians 2 Old Suttonians 5; Old Isleworthians 2 Old Kingsburians 1; Old Tiffinians 0 Old Reigatians 0; Old Wilsonians 2 Shene OG 0.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Old Woodhouseians 3 Southgate County 1; Parkfield 0 St Marys College 1. Postponed: Old Grammarians v City of London. Senior Cup: Old Colleians 3 HAC 1; Ulysses 5 Tesco Country Club 0.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Alleyn Old Boys 1 Old Westminster Ctz. 2; Brentham 1 Old Latymerians 1; Broomfield 4 Kew Association 2; East Barnet OG 1 Norsemen 1; Ibis 1 Cuaco 1; Lloyds Bank 1 Barclays Bank 1; Nat West Bank 0 Lensbury 0; Old Actonians 1 Crouch End Vampires 2; Old Esthameians 2 Alexandra Park 2; Old Finchleians 3 Merton 3; Polytechnic 1 West Wickham 1; South Bank 3 Civil Service 3; Winchmore Hill 0 Old Lyonians 1. Postponed: Old Stationers v Midland Bank.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon 1 Burnham Ramblers 1; Bowers 1 Sawbridgeworth 0; Brentwood 1 East Ham 1; Great Wakering 2 Ilford 1; Hullbridge Sports 0 Saffron Walden 2; Stansted 0 Concord 4.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Old Bromleians 1 Carshalton 3; Old Salesians 4 Nottsborough 2 (aet).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 1 Bristol Manor Farm 0; Bridport 2 Bishop Sutton 2; Calne 0 Bridgwater 3; Melksham 3 Elmore 1; Odd Down 1 Barnstaple 0; Tiverton 1 Taunton 2; Westbury 0 Mangotsfield 1. Postponed: Keynsham v Backwell.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 6 Selsey 0; Chichester 3 Broadbridge Heath 0; Pagham 3 Hailsham 0; Saltdean 1 Ringmer 1; Shoreham 0 Horsham YMCA 4. Postponed: Eastbourne Town v Portfield; Redhill v Whitehawk. John O'Hara League Cup: Fourth round: Wick 0 Eastbourne 1 (aet).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 2 Buckingham 4; Cogenhoe 1 Potton 0; Desborough 1 Kempston 3; Eynesbury 1 Boston 1; Ford Sports 1 Yaxley 3; Holbeach 4 St Neots 4; N Spencer 1 M Blackstone 1; Stotfold 0 Spalding 1; Wootton 0 Wellingborough 5. Postponed: S and L Corby v Long Buckby.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham 1 Crockenhill 1; Cray 1 Lordswood 1; Erith 1 Deal 2; Faversham 2 Tunbridge Wells 2; Hythe 1 Herne Bay 1; Slade Green 2 Sheppey 0; Thamesmead 2 Chatham 0; Whitstable 1 Ramsgate 2. Postponed: Canterbury v Greenwich.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Bradford 1 Southampton Saints 0; Croydon 2 Liverpool 1; Everton 2 Millwall 0. Postponed: Arsenal v Tranmere Rovers; Ilkeston v Doncaster.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Arnold 0 Leeds 2; Berkhamsted 0 Aston Villa 2. Other Matches Postponed. Southern division: Barry 1 Brighton 1; Langford 6 Barnet 0; Leyton Orient 1 Three Bridges 1; Reading Royals 4 Ipswich 0; Whitehawk 4 Wimbledon 0.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido 0 Caersws 1; Cwmbran 2 Connah's Quay 1; Haverfordwest 1 Conwy 3; Inter Cable-Tel 3 Caernarfon Town 0; Newtown 0 Barry Town 0; Total Network Solutions 1 Carmarthen Town 1. Postponed Rhayader Town v Aberystwyth.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveronvale 2 Huntly 5; Forres Mechanics 3 Brora 3; Fort William 1 Peterhead 7; Fraserburgh 3 Lossiemouth 2; Nairn County 0 Clachnacuddin 6; Rothes 1 Elgin 3; Wick Academy 0 Keith 3.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine 3 Cliftonville 1; Glenavon 1 Ballymena 0; Linfield 3 Portadown 1; Omagh Town 1 Crusaders 2. Postponed Newry v Glentoran. First division: Bangor 3 Dungannon Swifts 1; Distillery 1 Ballyclare 0; Larne 0 Ards 2; Limavady Utd 2 Carrick 3.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry City 1 Bray 1; UCD 0 Sligo Rovers 0.

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were nine score draws: Everton v Wimbledon; Tottenham v Derby; Norwich v Sheff Utd; Wolverhampton v Huddersfield; Chesterfield v Man City; Colchester v Reading; Brentford v Scarborough; Rochdale v Cardiff; Motherwell v Dunfermline. Payouts on eight, seven, six and five score draws. This weeks estimated pay out for: Eight score draws: 2 winners each £28,219. Seven score draws: 34 winners each £452.50. Six score draws: 701 winners each £43.50. Five score draws: 5886 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
1	2	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1

26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	3
1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is low: four score draws and 17 no-score draws

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good: nine score draws and three no-score draws



	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	26	10	4	1	35	15	6	5	2	28	14	57	+34
2 Chelsea	27	9	5	0	21	8	5	6	2	20	14	53	+19
3 Arsenal	27	8	5	0	21	4	5	6	3	14	9	50	+22
4 Aston Villa	27	8	2	4	25	21	4	6	3	13	10	44	+7
5 Leeds	26	8	3	2	21	6	3	6	4	18	19	42	+14
6 West Ham	27	8	3	3	20	19	3	4	6	11	19	40	-7
7 Liverpool	27	7	4	2	33	16	4	2	8	17	18	39	+16
8 Derby	27	5	5	3	13	12	4	6	4	13	13	38	+1
9 Wimbledon	26	7	5	1	18	11	2	5	6	12	25	37	-6
10 Sheff Wed	26	6	3	4	16	8	4	2	7	18	17	35	+9
11 Newcastle	27	7	3	4	21	17	2	5	6	14	19	35	-1
12 Tottenham	26	5	6	2	20	17	2	6	5	10	15	33	-2
13 Middlesbro	27	4	8	1	16	10	3	4	7	18	29	33	-5
14 Leicester	25	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	5	8	16	30	-9
15 Everton	27	3	8	3	9	7	3	2	8	11	22	28	-9
16 Charlton	27	4	5	5	18	13	2	4	7	13	24	27	-6
17 Coventry	27	5	4	4	17	14	2	2	10	11	24	27	-10
18 Blackburn	27	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	8	12	22	26	-11
19 Southamptn	26	5	2	6	20	22	1	3	9	6	28	23	-24
20 Nottm F	27	1	6	6	11	24	2	2	10	11	30	17	-32

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	33	13	2	1	37	8	7	8	2	28	14	70	(65)
2 Bradford	33	12	3	2	37	14	6	4	6	21	20	61	(58)
3 Ipswich	33	10	1	5	21	9	8	6	3	23	11	61	(44)
4 Bolton	32	10	4	3	34	18	6	7	2	23	19	59	(57)
5 Birmingham	33	8	6	2	21	11	8	3	6	28	18	57	(49)
6 Watford	34	8	7	3	23	17	6	4	6	26	27	53	(49)
7 Wolves	33	8	8	1	26	15	5	2	9	20	20	49	(46)
8 Grimsby	32	9	4	3	22	13	5	3	8	12	21	49	(34)
9 West Brom	34	9	2	5	33	23	4	6	8	23	30	47	(56)
10 Norwich	32	6	8	2	25	18	6	3	7	21	24	47	(46)
11 Sheff Utd	32	8	4	4	28	24	4	6	6	22	26	46	(50)
12 Huddersfld	33	9	6	1	29	18	3	4	10	16	36	46	(45)
13 Tranmere	33	6	5	6	26	22	3	10	3	19	22	42	(45)
14 C Palace	33	8	8	1	33	19	2	2	12	11	35	40	(44)
15 Barnsley	33	5	7	4	25	19	4	6	7	14	20	40	(39)
16 Stockport	33	5	8	6	19	17	4	7	5	20	22	40	(39)
17 Swindon	33	6	7	3	31	26	4	2	11	13	27	39	(44)
18 Portsmouth	33	8	4	5	28	18	1	7	8	18	32	38	(46)
19 QPR	33	5	6	5	19	16	3	4	10	16	28	34	(35)
20 Oxford Utd	33	6	5	6	22	23	2	4	10	12	31	33	(34)
21 Port Vale	33	7	1	8	15	23	2	3	12	18	37	31	(33)
22 Bury	33	7	4	5	19	19	0	6	11	9	31	31	(28)
23 Bristol City	33	4	7	6	24	29	1	6	9	18	32	28	(42)
24 Crewe	33	4	3	9	20	32	2	5	10	18	34	26	(38)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	31	13	2	1	32	10	8	3	4	17	13	68	(49)
2 Preston	33	10	4	3	39	18	9	4	3	24	15	65	(63)
3 Walsall	33	9	5	3	25	17	9	2	5	20	19	61	(45)
4 Gillingham	32	11	4	2	32	12	4	9	2	21	15	58	(53)
5 Bournemth	30	11	4	0	32	7	4	4	7	18	22	53	(50)
6 Man City	32	8	5	2	23	9	5	8	4	16	15	52	(39)
7 Wigan	31	8	3	3	23	8	6	4	7	22	22	49	(45)
8 Millwall	33	6	7	3	23	16	7	3	7	15	22	49	(38)
9 Stoke	30	8	3	4	22	14	7	0	8	16	19	48	(38)
10 Chesterfld	31	11	2	3	26	11	2	6	7	9	17	47	(35)
11 Reading	32	7	6	4	23	20	4	5	6	15	24	44	(38)
12 Luton	31	7	3	5	18	15	4	5	7	21	25	41	(39)
13 Blackpool	32	5	6	4	18	15	5	5	7	14	20	41	(32)
14 Wrexham	31	6	4	6	16	20	4	4	7	17	26	38	(33)
15 Colchester	32	5	6	5	16	22	3	7	6	19	24	37	(35)
16 Bristol R	30	6	6	4	24	19	2	6	6	16	15	36	(40)
17 York	33	4	7	6	21	24	5	2	9	19	31	36	(40)
18 Burnley	33	5	6	6	15	22	3	4	9	21	35	34	(36)
19 Oldham	32	5	2	8	16	20	4	4	9	15	23	33	(31)
20 Lincoln City	32	7	3	6	21	20	2	3	11	10	32	33	(31)
21 Notts Co	31	5	3	7	19	20	3	4	9	12	25	31	(31)
22 Northmptn	32	2	8	5	13	16	4	3	10	13	21	29	(26)
23 Wycombe	32	6	3	8	21	17	0	6	9	8	25	27	(29)
24 Macclesfld	31	3	4	8	10	17	2	5	9	11	23	24	(21)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	32	12	2	3	30	13	5	5	5	17	16	58	(47)
2 Camb Utd	31	10	3	3	26	16	7	3	5	26	16	57	(52)
3 Brentford	32	12	2	2	31	15	5	0	11	22	34	53	(53)
4 Mansfield	33	11	1	4	28	15	4	5	8	20	31	51	(48)
5 L Orient	31	8	4	3	21	18	5	7	4	22	20	50	(43)
6 Scunthorpe	31	10	1	4	30	22	5	3	8	21	22	49	(51)
7 Plymouth	32	9	3	4	22	12	5	4	7	16	17	49	(38)
8 Peterboro	33	8	3	6	32	26	6	3	7	22	18	48	(54)
9 Rotherham	32	7	5	4	31	21	6	3	7	28	26	47	(59)
10 Halifax	32	7	7	3	28	21	5	4	6	16	15	47	(44)
11 Swansea	31	7	7	1	21	12	5	4	7	16	21	47	(37)
12 Exeter	32	10	3	3	24	10	3	5	8	12	20	47	(36)
13 Brighton	33	7	1	8	22	24	7	3	7	20	22	46	(42)
14 Chester	33	4	10	2	17	17	6	4	7	25	27	44	(42)
15 Shrewsbury	33	9	4	4	29	23	2	6	8	10	22	43	(39)
16 Rochdale	32	7	6	3	18	12	4	4	8	16	23	43	(34)
17 Darlington	31	8	3	4	30	14	4	3	9	17	29	42	(47)
18 Southend	33	7	4	5	20	13	3	5	9	19	34	39	(39)
19 Barnet	33	7	3	7	23	27	3	4	9	18	30	37	(41)
20 Torquay	32	6	7	3	19	15	2	6	8	14	26	37	(33)
21 Carlisle	32	5	5	6	14	14	3	6	7	15	21	35	(29)
22 Hartlepool	33	5	5	7	27	26	4	2	10	16	30	34	(43)
23 Hull	33	5	3	9	18	23	4	3	9	15	28	33	(33)
24 Scarboro	32	5	2	8	20	27	3	2	12	13	31	28	(33)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Rangers	26	9	3	0	25	7	9	2	3	36	15	59	+39
2 Celtic	26	11	2	1	40	7	3	5	4	22	17	49	+38
3 St Johnstn	26	5	5	2	19	16	6	4	4	13	17	42	-1
4 Kilmarnock	25	7	4	2	19	11	4	4	4	12	9	41	+11
5 Motherwell	26	6	4	4	17	19	1	5	6	8	19	30	-13
6 Aberdeen	26	4	4	4	16	16	4	2	8	13	25	30	-14
7 Dundee	26	4	3	7	10	20	3	3	6	12	23	27	-21
8 Dundee Utd	26	2	7	3	11	11	4	1	9	16	20	26	-4
9 Hearts	26	6	1	7	17	19	0	5	7	5	19	24	-16
10 Dunfermline	25	2	6	4	11	17	0	8	5	8	21	20	-19

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Hibernian	28	12	1	1	36	10	9	4	1	30	17	68	+39
2 Falkirk	27	6	5	3	20	15	8	1	4	23	12	48	+16
3 Airdrie	28	4	2	8	13	25	10	3	1	22	8	47	+2
4 Ayr	27	7	2	5	34	19	7	1	5	17	16	45	+16
5 St Mirren	28	8	1	5	16	18	4	6	4	12	12	43	-2
6 G Morton	27	4	4	6	15	15	5	2	6	14	13	33	+1
7 Clydebank	25	3	4	3	10	10	5	5	5	16	19	33	-3
8 Raith	28	4	4	7	14	21	2	4	7	15	26	26	-18
9 Hamilton	28	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	8	16	29	24	-20
10 Stranraer	28	2	2	11	14	24	2	0	11	10	31	14	-31

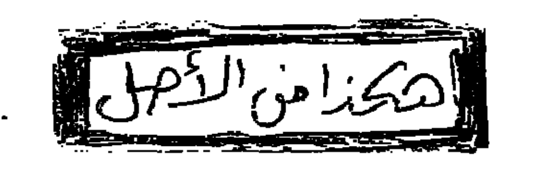
SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Livingston	27	10	4	0	24	7	8	3	2	28	19	61	+27
2 Inverness C	27	11	2	0	31	15	6	4	4	28	20	57	+24
3 Clyde	27	8	3	3	22	13	4	4	5	15	17	43	+7
4 Alloa	27	7	3	4	34	21	4	2	7	20	20	38	+13
5 Partick	27	6	2	6	14	15	4	2	7	12	16	34	-5
6 Stirling	27	5	0	8	19	24	5	4	5	20	25	34	-10
7 East Fife	27	4	2	7	15	26	5	2	7	17	22	31	-16
8 Arbroath	27	5	3	6	13	20	3	3	7	10	17	30	-14
9 Queen of S	27	4	6	3	16	13	3	1	10	14	22	28	-5
10 Forfar	27	3	3	7	20	25	2	3	9	14	30	21	-21

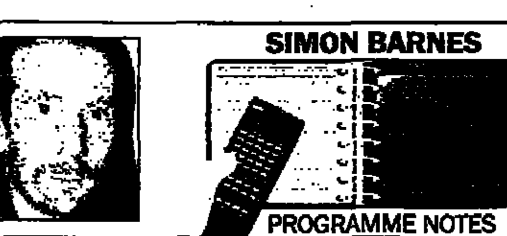
THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Ross County	25	8	1	3	23	9	8	4	1	37	18	53	+33
2 Stenhsmuir	27	6	1	6	25	20	7	4	3	21	13	44	+13
3 Brechin	28	5	5	4	16	16	7	2	3	17	16	43	+1
4 Berwick	27	5	3	6	20	21	4	8	1	17	11	38	+5
5 Albion	26	5	3	5	21	27	6	2	5	17	21	38	-10
6 Dumbarton	25	3	4	5	14	15	6	4	3	20	16	35	+3
7 East Stirling	26	4	7	3	22	16	3	3	6	16	18	31	+4
8 Queen's Pk	27	4	5	3	16	14	3	4	8	15	20	30	-3
9 Cowdenbth	26	4	2	8	15	22	2	3	7	9	23	23	-21
10 Montrose	27	4	4	5	20	21	2	1	11	12	36	23	-25





Timid BBC finally loses its nerve on match point



So you decide to put money into a tennis tournament that contains 30 players whose bankability is distinctly ho-hum, but it also has Tim and Greg. And certainly both are splendid players and splendid chaps and, in this country, most hugely watchable. They are cast-iron box-office success. But neither of them is a stone-cold certainty to make the final, or even the semi-final, the big weekend days of your tournament.

So what do you do? It is the most anguishing thing for anyone involved in the business of sport. Sport is attractive because it is ultimately unpredictable. Good business practice is all about the ability to predict, to see around the next corner. That is how you get ahead of the game.

In other words, sport makes money because its unpredictability is so marketable. But it is hard to cope with as a business, because you can't predict it. This is a simple paradox that lies at the heart of sport biz.

Television is an aspect of sport biz, and a very important one. The BBC bought up the week's big tennis event, which seemed to be held in a disused Toys R Us warehouse in Battersea Park. It had Tim and Greg on home soil, so it was an obviously good idea to televise it. But what if they don't reach the final? The BBC invested money in the tournament, but not faith. They feared the unpredictability too much. In short, they bottled it.

This robustly timorous approach seemed to be well and truly justified when Tim Henman went out in the first round. This is precisely the sort of result that has sport's money men screaming in anguish. You can supply burgers on demand and a burger is always a burger, but sport has a will of its own. You never know what you are going to get. You never have control of your own product. Tim's out? Well, that's sports biz.

It's great for mere punters, of course. Who is around the next corner? It is absolutely great, not knowing. Every time we go to a match or switch on a television with live sport before us, we might be about to watch the best match we have seen. We know we almost certainly won't. But that little question, that vast chasm of unpredictability, is what brings us back to sport again and again.

And the BBC knew that a live final with Tim or Greg — could God be wonderful this week and give us both? — was going to be very watchable indeed. But with neither, it would all be the most crashing bore for anyone save serious tennis buffs. And so the BBC lost its nerve, scheduled a live rugby league match and gave us extended highlights.

All right, the thing was live on BBC Choice, but most of us haven't got that yet. And Greg Rusedski made the final, which made it a mainstream sport happening. And the BBC had it, but they didn't put it out; at least they didn't put it out live on *Sunday Grandstand*.

Instead, we had highlights two hours late. We missed 24 games altogether. From the way the package was put together, you could effortlessly predict what was happening and which way the games were going to go. This was the case until well into the third set. I couldn't get my mind on the case until it was 3-3 in the last.

It was pretty poor television, then. A pity, because it seemed to be an absolute cracker of a match. The BBC couldn't have known that. They couldn't have predicted with 100 per cent certainty that Greg would make the final and that it would be a belter. So they played cautious.

It was a horrible decision to have to make, but the fact of the matter is that the Beeb got it wrong. Rusedski lost out in a hectic and splendid third set against Richard Krajicek, despite one of the most outrageous pieces of gamesmanship — in the strict Potterian sense of the term — seen on television for some time. It was great stuff.

I sometimes hear people moaning about Greg and Tim: they don't win every tournament they play in, they have been disappointing, neither has won a grand-slam event, they are maddeningly inconsistent. They are all too British — even Greg. But hey, chaps. We have two Brits in the top ten and absolutely none busting a gut to take their places. Let us just enjoy these two while we have them.

Greg and Tim are living national treasures and the way the two are inextricably linked adds an extra dimension to it all. Their rivalry is a perpetual stimulus to each, one player waxing as the other wanes, until the balance tips back the other way again. We should all revel in this odd pair and do everything we can to enjoy them. That includes those who bring us sporting television. Brings us all the Tim and Greg you can. It's not as if they'll be around for ever.

PHOTOGRAPHS: HUGH ROUTLEDGE

That's my ball, and I'm taking it home

'And the ball had a very good game. Very active. Quite nippy'



Ball and scrawl: Truss receives her illegibly signed memento from Nigel Gibbs of Watford, while (right) her fluorescent, sponsored version, after successfully avoiding the net, is caught unawares as Howe of Swindon wallops in the winner





Being a football sponsor has never appealed to me particularly. Perhaps it is the cynic in me, but whenever I notice in the match programme that Dean Gammidge's kit is generously sponsored by "Frankie and Alan" a frisson tickles my spine. Such naive, unquestioning selflessness. I have this persistent image, you see, of those poor saps Frankie and Alan answering the door one Saturday morning mid-season to find all Dean Gammidge's laundry in a big basket on the step.

"You're the kit people, right? I'll be back for it this afternoon," says the delivery man. "No starch in the shirts."

Thus, when I was asked to be honorary match ball sponsor for Watford v Swindon Town on Friday, I initially hedged a bit. I assumed there was a catch. But no, said the nice woman from Watford on the phone. I had won the deal fair and square in a business card draw, it was worth £400, and I could attend the match with three friends, have dinner in the restaurant (wine extra) and take home the match ball, signed by the players. Wow. To take home the very ball used in the match; have a little display cabinet built; instal a spotlight! People would say I was "deeply sad", wouldn't they? Which is, of course, in football terms, the highest compliment you can pay.

However, there certainly was a catch. It was that you can't get to Watford on the M25 on a Friday night unless you set out the night before. So instead of treating your friends to a free leisurely dinner at Vicarage Road, you make them sit in rainy traffic jams and watch the hours tick by. You then arrive at the ground ten minutes before kick-off in a heightened emotional state, ravenous with hunger, and more than ready to shoot the inevitable obstructive jobsworth with a walkie-talkie who won't let you park your car.

But there was an unexpected benefit to this anguish. A plus side to being late and angry and frustrated. It was that although the jobsworths were naturally out in force (Elton John himself was once denied a parking space at Watford), I discovered, after nearly three years in this grindingly unhelpful footie business, a glorious open-sesame. "I must get through, I'm the match ball sponsor," I announced. And astonishingly, it worked.

To someone who has never before persuaded a stadium steward to use the teeniest amount of initiative on her behalf, here was a revelation. Someone let me park my car; someone else helped us scoot through the wrong stand, rather than go right round the stadium to another entrance. It was unbelievable.

Forget being from *The Times*, incidentally; in taking the logical path from A to B at a sporting event, full accreditation and urgent professional necessity cut no ice whatever. In my desperation at the World Cup last year, where I spent five weeks battering my head against bolted doors, I finally memorised the French for "Let me through with this plasma" — a last-ditch ruse that would, of course, have required me to fill plastic bags with pints of my own blood, but on balance would definitely have been worth it. Anyway, we got in finally, puff, pant. Rain was falling on the perfect pitch; just under 9,000 people had turned out, the remainder of the usual crowd staying home to watch it on telly. We saw Watford not score at all, and Swindon score once. At half-time we ate the dinner (very good roast beef and veg) and I calmed down enough to get quite enthralled watching the ball itself (my ball) flying about. "Yellow for a night game, I suppose," I pointed out excitedly to my chums, handing them binoculars. "I can't see any signatures on it yet, though, can you?"

And the ball had a good game. Very active, quite nippy. Swindon's Bobby Howe caught it unawares in the closing minutes of the first half and scored with it, but otherwise it kept out of the net despite several close shaves. I started wondering whether it should have a pet name. Bobby Ball.

Benny Ball. I also worried what would be the consequences if (as often occurs) the ball went out of play and another was thrown in. Which ball did I get? Then, scanning the programme, I discovered the poleaxing news that there was a second match ball sponsor, "Watford Council and the Wiseman Family". What? The Wisemans get the match ball as well? Good grief. Nobody mentioned anything about a time share.

As is perhaps becoming clear, being match ball sponsor is not an ideal way to watch a football match. You get distracted by the wrong things, such as whether the ball is getting too wet for the signatures to stick. In the second half Swindon's George Ndah wore a worrying bandage on his right hand — would be still be able to sign? I was vaguely aware of the Hornets doing their best to equalise — buzz, buzz — but mainly I was concerned with tracking the adventures of Brucie Ball or Brian Ball (Billy Ball?), wondering how much to insure it for, and musing why there are so few auctions of match balls at Christie's.

So you will be glad to know that Barry Ball is safely before me as I write, and of course it is not the real match ball at all. It's a white Watford FC ball (size 5) and I'm dead proud, though having spent two days studying the wild scribbles, I must report that an annotated match ball might be even better. There's a signature that might be N. Wright, but I've squinted from all angles and it still looks more like Hilary. A few of the others are quite legible, but unfortunately bear no relation to the known personnel of the match. "A. Belly", for example, is very clear, but I'm sure I'd remember if he played. Meanwhile those lesser known players "M. Lagst" and "Littlie Gfeinl" have signed with admirable flourish.

Still, it was a new footie experience, and Watford were charming, and it was my own fault for underestimating the traffic. As I gaze now in wonderment at Bruno Ball, I must admit that my most treasured possession remains a book inscribed by Arthur Miller, but who knows? When Littlie Gfeinl becomes the new Alan Shearer, I can rethink my priorities. Meanwhile, however, I shall practise my wonderful open-sesame without delay at Monet in the 20th Century.

"How dare you block the path of a match ball sponsor?" is clearly always worth a go. And let's be honest, it's a lot less drastic than opening a vein.

SPORTS LETTERS

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They should include a daytime telephone number

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

No excuses for Johnson

From Mr S Kyle

Sir, "I disagree with Alasdair Reid (report, February 22)." It is not a matter of changing the rules to allow punishment of Martin Johnson for stamping. It is time for the England selectors to stand up and be counted.

Martin Johnston cynically and cold-bloodedly stamped on John Leslie, while he lay unable to defend himself in the bottom of a ruck at Twickenham.

There was no element of mitigation, no heat of the moment, not even a suspicion of Leslie bending the rules a bit and putting himself at risk.

I looked back over a recording of the incident several times." Johnson approached the ruck from a distance, with everything in clear view, with plenty of time to assess the situation.

His body angle is clearly shown by the photograph reproduced in the paper. His feet are in front of his body. He is not driving into the ruck. His feet are in front of his body weight for one purpose, to stamp on his opponent's face or neck.

What message does it send to the players at every level if the England selectors continue to condone and reward such behaviour, by selecting this player?

Alasdair Reid states the law is an ass as far as violent conduct is concerned. The selectors are not obliged to prove themselves of similar pedigree.

S KYLE,
11 Beaconsfield Place,
Aberdeen.

From Mr Aadel Kardooni

Sir, as a friend and former colleague of Martin Johnson's at Leicester, I found Simon Barnes' Midweek View (February 24) offensive. Simon Barnes builds a picture of Martin being a prehistoric man, aggressive and lacking in intelligence. At the same time, he points out that he has never met Martin. I am sure that if he had researched his subject he would have found that Martin is intelligent with an engaging disposition.

Although I am not condoning Martin's stamping on John Leslie, he is a hard and physical man who plays his rugby in the same way. At the same time Martin is not a so-called "dirty player" who looks to prowl rugby games to hand out his form of retribution.

Yours sincerely,
AADEL KARDOONI,
100 Piccadilly,
London W1.

From Mr Rob Edgerton

Sir, In his Calcutta Cup preview (February 20), Michael Lynagh said England needed someone with "the build of Dallaglio, the pace of Guscott and excellent ball-handling skills". There is such a man playing rugby in England — unfortunately, its the wrong code.

Andrew Farrell fits this description to a tee, as well as being a very accurate kicker. If only he, along with players such as Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove, were available in the back line for Clive Woodward.

Yours sincerely,
ROB EDGERTON,
Cathedral Court,
University of Surrey,
Guildford, Surrey.

Percentage golfers make the game boring

From Mr H.E. Paice

Sir, John Hopkins (Strokeplay no match for head-to-head, February 22) highlighted much of what I believe is causing so-called "big" golf to lose its attraction. To many of us ardent golfers and watchers of the game, whether live or on television, the "percentage" approach of the majority of players is boring.

As stated by Hopkins, a mistake or two may be costly, in every sense of the word, under strokeplay conditions, so we are then lumbered with the unending misery of putt-stalking, grass-throwing etc *ad nauseum* — far less important in matchplay — as is the weather. Television commentators take great pride in "calling the shot". Why? Because they know the percentage play and are rarely surprised. I don't want to hear their smugness; I'd much rather they speculated — or, shall we say, gambled on getting it right!

Surely a format can be devised to satisfy all interests?

Yours faithfully,
H.E. PAICE,
19 Ravenswood Avenue,
West Wickham,
Kent.

Lordly confusion

From Mr Denys Franzini

Sir, I have made an application to MCC for tickets for a Test match to be played at Lord's in July. I have noted that the Regulations of MCC include "No ... confusion of any kind is permitted in any part of the ground". MCC further reserves the right to remove from the ground any person who refuses to comply with the Regulations. In view of the confusion caused at the England v Sri Lanka one-day international in Australia on January 23 (the "calling" of Muralitharan for "throwing") does the definition of "any person" extend to the umpires?

Yours faithfully,
DENYS FRANZINI,
10 Courtfield Mews,
London SW5.

Blair's turn to play fair

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, Is there not a similarity between the match recently played between Arsenal and Sheffield United and the recent election of the leader of the Welsh assembly? Arsenal, whose actions in the first match were considered to be not in the interest of sportsmanship, offered a rematch — that was applauded by all.

In Wales, Tony Blair changed the electoral system that voted for Welsh leader of the Labour Party to suit his own ends, and his "puppet" duly won a hollow victory. Would it not be in the interest of fair play, and the credibility of the Prime Minister, to return this election on a level playing field by giving every member of the trade unions an individual vote?

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL,
29 Erskine Hill,
Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London NW11.

From Mr Brian Kain

Sir, Now that justice has been seen to be done with Arsenal's FA Cup victory over Sheffield United, should we now not reconsider the fair play "rule"?

The incident in the first match resulted from a United player putting the ball into touch because a team-mate was hurt. Surely it should be the prerogative of the opposing team to make the gesture, ensuring that no time is wasted when players feign injury?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN B. KAIN,
Stumbledon,
The Ford,
Little Hadham,
Herts SG11 2AY

From Mr Giles Lyon

Sir, In light of Arsène Wenger's refusal to accept Marc Overmars's "winning" goal in the FA Cup tie with Sheffield United, does this mean that players would be able to retract "goals" if they thought they were unfair, undeserved or just felt bad about scoring?

Yours faithfully,
GILES LYON,
150a Harbord Street,
London SW6.

This week in THE TIMES

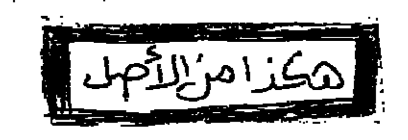
Tomorrow
Oxford aim to stem the flood of Cambridge victories in the Boat Race next month. **Mike Rosewell** sizes up the crews who will battle it out on the Thames.

Wednesday
Colin Jackson assesses his chances of striking gold in the world indoor athletics championships in Japan.

Thursday
Is the European Cup still in Manchester United's sights after their quarter-final tie with Internazionale?

Friday
The Formula One wheels are turning in Australia for the opening grand prix of the season. **Kevin Eason** reports from Melbourne.

Saturday
Football Saturday: the FA Cup quarter-finals in prospect plus top columnists **Gary Neville** and **Robert Elms**.



Gloucester blessed by rub of the green

Gloucester 15
Harlequins..............................13

BY DAVID HANDS

EVERY new administration needs a smile from Dame Fortune and Gloucester's arrived in the sixth minute of injury time at Kingsholm on Saturday. Graham Hughes, the Manchester referee, decided that Chris Sheasby had not released the ball in a tackle and Mark Mapletoft kicked his fifth penalty goal to take the home side into the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

Richard Hill, Gloucester's deposed director of rugby, who sent a message of encouragement to his former charges, might have reflected that this will be Gloucester's third appearance in the semi-finals in the past four years.

Philippe Saint-André, appointed after Hill's dismissal a fortnight ago, knows victory is only a temporary balm. "I have never won easily with Gloucester," the French wing said. "We played with a big heart but we are too traditional here. New rugby is not just kick and chase, scrums and lineouts." Hill knew that and tried to change. Saint-André's ambition is to build a squad that will play European rugby in season 2000-2001.

Gloucester deserved their luck. They lost Scott Benton, their scrum half, to a groin strain acquired in the pre-match warm-up and Richard Tombs, their influential centre, after eight minutes with a knee injury. Terry Fanolua, their other centre, was attending a family funeral in Western Samoa, so their attacking resources were thin in the extreme against a side that has not lost at Kingsholm since 1993.

Harlequins made poor use of the strong wind blowing downfield in the first half, which they lost 6-3, and could not score the points their imaginative play deserved in the second. John Gallagher, their director of rugby, was inclined to pass some of the blame to Hughes, though his refereeing of the ball on the floor was consistent with that of many of his peers this season.

"We spent a whole day at a seminar for coaches and referees discussing the tackle law," Gallagher said. "I find it incredible that you can do that, think you know what the game is and then find a performance like that in the middle."

Harlequins' hope now is that they can qualify for Europe next season — if Europe proves to be back on the agenda for English clubs. They had the most dangerous runners in John Schuster and the abrasive Keith Wood, but they could take little advantage of Dan Luger's confident display.

Gallagher could reflect that his team's try came from a pass by Neil McCarthy of vaulting ambition but limited technical expertise. The Gloucester hooker spun the ball 30 metres into midfield, missed his colleagues and allowed Harlequins to drive deep into the home 22 from a penalty; from the lineout, Rory Jenkins ran powerfully and Huw Harries, with the hint of a dummy, opened the defence under the posts.

Gloucester's sole attacking ploy seemed the introduction of Saint-Andre from the blind-side wing, but it was Rory Greenslade-Jones who finally unpicked the lock. His run into the Harlequins 22 appeared to have been for nothing when he knocked on but, into the wind, Harlequins could not kick clear, so Sheasby picked up and drove. Alas for the former England No 8, he was judged to have retained the ball on the ground and the accurate Mapletoft did the rest.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Penalty goals: Mapletoft 5 (26min, 38, 61, 73, 86) Harlequins: Try: Harries (51) Conversion: Schuster Penalty goals: Schuster 2 (29, 68)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Gloucester first) 3-0, 3-3, 6-3 (half-time), 6-10, 9-10, 9-13, 12-13, 15-13

GLOUCESTER: C Catling; B Johnson, S Mannix, R Tombs (rep R Greenslade-Jones, 10min), P Saint-Andre; M Mapletoft, I Sanders; T Woodman (rep A Windo, 75), N McCarthy (rep: C Fortey, 61), A Deacon, R Fidler (rep D Sims, 54), M Cornwell, E Pearce, N Carter, S Ojomoh

HARLEQUINS: D O'Leary; J Keyter, P Mensah (rep. W Carling, 73), J Schuster, D Luger; R Liley, H Harries; D Barnes, K Wood, G Halpin, G Llewellyn, W Davison (rep G Morgan, 61), R Jenkins, A Leach (rep T Murphy, 69), C Sheasby.

Referee: G Hughes (Manchester)

Tetley's Bitter Cup: Holders eliminated by resilient Newcastle



Tuigamala, right, of Newcastle, who scored two tries, powers through the Saracens defence during his side's Tetley's Bitter Cup victory at Kingston Park yesterday

Saracens tumble to guile of Tuigamala

Newcastle 15
Saracens...................................0

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE'S future may yet be uncertain in the long term but if any potential business consortium seeks a going concern, they will find one at Kingston Park. With a display of magnificently controlled rugby in foul conditions, and two deftly taken tries from Va'aiga Tuigamala, the Premiership champions of last season removed Saracens, the holders, from the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

The North East threw in everything it had to offer yesterday — driving wind, a numbing rain and, at one stage, sleet across the pitch that put a high premium on basic skills. The response of both teams was better than an enthusiastic crowd had the right to expect, but where Saracens could make nothing of their territorial advantage in the first half, Newcastle had the ideal game-breaker after the interval, in Tuigamala. Nor was the Samoan wing merely in battering-ram mode.

His first try could hardly have been bettered, his second, three minutes from time, embellishing the advantage as Saracens tried desperately to break the stranglehold by running from their own 22. Victory leaves Newcastle looking at the possibility of a second trophy in successive seasons and Rob Andrew, their director of rugby, casting sideways glances at those running the game.

If Newcastle are drawn at home in the semi-finals today, Andrew will fight tooth and nail to play at Kingston Park — where the capacity is 6,600 — despite the suggestion from English First-Division Rugby that the penultimate round must be played at a ground capable of holding 8,000. He is already opposed to the decision to play Premiership rugby through the World Cup next season, when at least five countries are likely to raid his resources. "I would like to know who makes these rules, why is 8,000 suddenly the magic number?" he said.

But Andrew could not have been happier with the form of his players. A fortnight before, just three days after the announcement that Cameron Hall Developments were to withdraw their funding, a distracted Newcastle were surprisingly beaten by London Scottish in the Premiership. "This game made a huge statement about the players and the club," Andrew said. "If we can get the business side resolved quickly, we can move forward. The players will sit tight, no-one wants to leave."

Developments are expected within the next ten days, hastened perhaps by the possibility of more silverware on the back of a forward display that was as good as anything Newcastle have shown this season. Garath Archer enjoyed himself at the lineout, when throwing was often a lottery, and the scrummaging work undertaken by Feidlim McLoughlin paid dividends against Saracens in the second half with George Graham holding so redoubtable a prop as Paul Wallace. Security in that area allowed the immensely promising Ross Beattie to escape from No 8, helping to police a midfield that, in the first half, Saracens threatened to pierce. Twice Penaud was through, Bracken and Ravenscroft were hauled down just short and Constable kicked when he, perhaps, should have given Thirlby the chance to stretch his legs on the right wing.

The game turned either side of half-time. Newcastle worked Legg clear and though the full back was stopped by Daniel five metres short of the line, the supporting wave poured in and Saracens fell offside under their own posts. Even in such a wind, Wilkinson was able to kick the penalty before placing a probing grub-kick towards Underwood's wing that Thirlby did well to clear. The second score, eight minutes after the interval, was decisive: Legg made the extra man on the blindside of a scrum on Newcastle's ten-metre line, Tuigamala was into his stride and kicked ahead. He pursued the ball so well that he claimed it ahead of Johnson and though the Saracens full back made the tackle, Tuigamala's momentum carried him to the line.

Newcastle's defence became even more grudging after that, even when Penaud nipped through a gap and kicked for his wing. The final nail was driven home near the finish. Saracens's passing broke down, Beattie drove forward and Tuigamala arrived from deep to take Armstrong's pass and sprint 20 metres to the line.

Whatever the future of first-class rugby in the North East, Newcastle seem likely to be part of it.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Tries: Tuigamala 2 (48min, 77) Conversion: Wilkinson. Penalty goal: Wilkinson (36)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Newcastle first): 3-0 (half-time), 8-0, 15-0.

NEWCASTLE: S Legg; T Underwood, M Shaw, J Wilkinson, V Tuigamala; R Andrew, G Armstrong; G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter, G Archer, H Vyvyan, P Walton (rep: S O'Neill, 80), R Arnold, R Beattie.

SARACENS: G Johnson (rep: B Lea, 74); R Thirlby, R Constable (rep: K Sorrell, 40), S Ravenscroft, B Daniel; A Penaud, K Bracken; D Flatman (rep: B Reidy, 73), G Chuter, P Wallace, P Johns, D Grewcock, F Pienaar, R Hill, A Diprose

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Aggressive defence gives Wasps their sting

Wasps.......................................19
London Irish...............................3

BY MARK SOUSTER

ONCE again, Wasps can sense that Twickenham feeling. A year ago they put London Irish out of the Tetley's Bitter Cup at Sunbury at the quarter-final stage with a resounding victory on their way to the final. Yesterday, at Loftus Road, they repeated the feat with a victory that, if not as emphatic in terms of scoreline, was its equal in terms of superiority. It completed a clean sweep of wins for home sides in the last eight. Given that results have gone with the territory, they will have fingers crossed for another home tie in the draw today.

This victory may not have been achieved in the grand flowing manner of 12 months ago, but this was every bit as satisfying against opponents who have been transformed in the interim. In front of a record crowd of 11,417, it was hard, it was ferocious, and the tackle count 115-94 in favour of Wasps tells its own story.

This was the other side of an inconsistent team that succumbed lamely at Bedford in the Allied Dunbar Premiership recently. In a game that was dominated by defence, it was Wasps who denied London Irish a single tryscoring opportunity, and offered them only two penalties within kicking range. Woods was able to convert the first, but missed the second. Their discipline was exemplary, but London Irish contrived to make life difficult for themselves.

Kirke struggled to find his jumpers and, as a consequence, their lineout was disjointed — how they miss Malcolm O'Kelly. The exiles were also undone by their spirit of adventure, running penalties with almost reckless abandon. They want to play a fast game, keeping the ball in hand, but with a deceptive wind, it cried out for a calmer head to kick for position. That would have at least relieved the almost relentless pressure they found themselves under in the second half and which increasingly forced them into errors.

They ran just about everything and with a defence as resolute as that of Wasps, in which Joe Worsley was outstanding, was a fatal mistake. In contrast, Alex King's prompting maintained Wasps's momentum and territorial advantage.

Dick Best, the London Irish director of rugby, was philosophical. "We never played anywhere near our potential. We made too many errors," he said. Nigel Melville, his counterpart, was glad that his side regained some consistency. "The motivation is to go back to Twickenham, where we lost heavily last year, to put things right. But we are not taking anything for granted. If we play like that again we can get to the final."

Take nothing away from Wasps, though. Their back row was dominant and laid the foundations for success. Worsley was hugely influential in an aggressive defence; Lawrence Dallaglio was also prominent, while Scrivener ran at the midfield relentlessly. Trevor Leota added an extra dimension in the loose; as well as being a dynamic force around the fringes, he is quick and has good hands. His involvement almost created a try for Dallaglio, who crossed in the second half but was penalised for a double movement. The England captain, however, was not to be denied.

After 73 minutes Simon Shaw, a replacement for Reed, drove down the short side and Rollitt provided the scoring pass that Dallaglio gleefully accepted. The additional penalty goal by Logan three minutes later was the final nail.

SCORERS: Wasps: Try: Dallaglio (73min). Conversion: Logan Penalty goals: Logan 3 (1, 73, 76). Dropped goal: Rees (43) London Irish: Penalty goal: Woods (32).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps first): 3-0, 3-3 (half-time), 6-3, 9-3, 16-3, 19-3.

WASPS: J Lewsey, P Sampson, F Waters, R Henderson, K Logan; A King (rep: M Denney, 75min), M Wood; A Black, T Leota, W Green, M Weedon, A Reed (rep: S Shaw, 65), L Dallaglio, J Worsley, P Scrivener (rep: E Rollitt, 69).

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, J Bishop (rep: J Cunningham, 40), N Burrows, B Venter, N Woods, S Bachop, K Putt; N Hatley, R Kirke, R Hardwick (rep. K Fullman, 70), R Strudwick, N Harvey, J Boer, R Gallacher, I Feaunati.

Referee: C White (Gloucestershire)

Stransky fails his England test

Stransky: ineligible

JOEL STRANSKY, the Leicester fly half, has ruled out playing for England in the World Cup later this year because of the absence of due qualifications. Stransky believed that he had an England-born grandfather, which would have made him eligible.

But after full investigation, Stransky, who kicked the winning dropped goal for South Africa against New Zealand in the 1995 World Cup final, discovered that it was his great-grandparents who moved to South Africa early this century. This bars him from representing England, even though he has stated his intention to remain resident in this country.

"It's disappointing news but it takes a load off my shoulders," he said. "My England career is not an issue now." Stransky would have become eligible to play for England a month before the World Cup began this autumn.

□ Montferrand booked their place in the European Cup next season by beating Bourgoin 35-16 in the final of the European Shield in Lyons on Saturday.

Indiscipline of Johnson turns tie on its head

Richmond.................................15
Leicester.................................13

BY MARK SOUSTER

THESE are difficult times for Martin Johnson. However much he protests his innocence over the John Leslie stamping incident, the impact will undoubtedly leave as deep an impression on the England lock as it did, temporarily, on the Scottish centre's neck at Twickenham nine days ago.

As never before he is a marked man. On Saturday, Johnson was shown a white card for what John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, described as a "cynical" professional foul. The decision by Steve Lander, the referee, effectively cost Leicester their chance of a league and cup double this season and subconsciously or not, referees are now on Johnson's case, however much others, among them Dean Richards, defend his reputation and deny that he is a target. "If we are trying to clear up the game, pick on somebody who is dirty," Richards said.

The ten-minute spell from the 27th minute turned a magnificent, full-throttle cup-tie on its head. In Johnson's absence, Richmond scored two tries in four minutes, by Clarke and Williams, respectively from scrum and lineout, that won the game and secured their place in a cup semi-final for the first time in their 138-year history.

Certainly Richmond looked to play on Johnson's perceived fragile temperament, as well as that of others. The tactic, cynical in itself, worked. As he was against Ireland at Wembley, Craig Quinnell was in turn abrasive and provocative and punched Johnson as the half-time whistle blew.

To his credit Johnson kept calm. Quinnell was sin-binned for punching Pat Howard in the second half although, crucially, Leicester managed only one score during his sideline sojourn, when Neil Back drove over from a lineout.

Kingston praised Lander's "courage" in taking action against the Leicester captain, who was penalised for stepping over a ruck and toe-poking the ball out of Agustin Pichot's hands ten metres from the Leicester line. "If we are going to find space on a rugby field it is so important you are hard on this type of infringement," he said. Lander is to be applauded because it was a cynical offence."

This was not a dirty game however, more rugby in the raw; a fiercely contested Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter-final, in which both sides spurned opportunities wide out. Leicester were always on the back foot after losing Joel Stransky on Friday with a knee injury. Without his control, and without anyone capable of straightening the line, they could make little headway against a committed Richmond cover defence.

With seven minutes to go, Corry had pounced on a loose ball after Clarke and then Hutton tried to run out of defence, and the feeling remained that Leicester might still have enough character and resolve to win, despite Stimpson's conversion rebounding off the upright. For all their dominance, they were restricted to a dropped-goal attempt by Stimpson that barely got off the ground.

After three days away at Windsor, Richmond had decided to adopt a more direct approach. In short they decided to take Leicester on at their own game — kicking for position, and turning their opponents. In the end, despite a few palpitations, it worked. "Fantastic feeling," Clarke said. "A great day for the club."

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Clarke (34min), Williams (38) Conversion: Va'a. Penalty goal: Va'a (56). Leicester: Tries: Back (46), Corry (73) Penalty goal: Stimpson (2)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 0-3, 7-3, 12-3 (half-time), 12-8, 15-8, 15-13

RICHMOND: M Pini; N Walne, J Wright, M Dixon, S Brown; E Va'a, A Pichot; D McFarland, B Williams, D Crompton, C Quinnell (sin-bin, 46-56min), C Gillies, R Hutton, A Vander, B Clarke

LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd (rep: N Ezulike, 10), C Joiner, J Stuart, D Lougheed; P Howard, J Hamilton, G Rowntree (rep. D Jelley, 60), R Cockerill (rep D West, 67), D Garforth, M Johnson (sin-bin, 27-37), F van Heerden, L Moody (rep P Gustard, 57), N Back, M Corry.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Hanley offers hope to Sale

Bedford 7
Manchester Sale.......................18

BY MARK BALDWIN

ETERNAL optimists maintain that there are no endings, only new beginnings: and optimism, often spilling over into blind faith, is the very lifeblood of sport. Take the events at Goldington Road on Saturday.

Bedford, who simply had to win to maintain realistic hopes of clawing themselves out of the Allied Dunbar Premiership's bottom two, produced instead one of their most disappointing displays of the season to allow Sale, their fellow strugglers, to pull six points ahead of them.

But were Bedford in utter despair afterwards? On the contrary, according to Rudi Straeuli, their director of rugby, whose seemingly unquenchable spirit continues to provide hard-up Bedford with perhaps their most prized asset. "Our aim is to stay above West Hartlepool and I believe we can do that," Straeuli said. "And, then, I think we can win the play-off against the second division's second-placed team."

For a club that have endured a wretched season of under-achievement, including eight successive defeats before this win, Sale were also surprisingly upbeat as their fears of relegation eased.

Well-organised in defence and slowing the game down whenever possible to take the steam from Bedford's occasional raids, Sale won the day because they have, in Steve Hanley, the most exciting attacking discovery of the season.

Hanley, 19, may yet force his way into the Five Nations Championship and illustrated with his second try, an instinctive eye for a gap, his perfectly-timed diagonal run inside Chris Yates injecting pace into a static move.

But the real demonstration of the power of Hanley's 6ft 3in, 16st frame had come 13 minutes earlier. Rory Underwood, who might be 36 in June but did, after all, win 85 England caps, was right up on Hanley when he received the ball. Underwood was brushed off like an irritant fly as Hanley thundered away. A case, perhaps, of a new beginning and a sad ending?

SCORERS: Bedford: Try: Paramore (56min) Conversion: Howard Sale: Tries: Hanley 2 (24, 37) Conversion: Howarth Penalty goals: Howarth 2 (27, 68)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first) 0-5 0-8, 0-15 (half-time) 7-15, 7-18

BEDFORD: S Stewart; R Underwood, A Murdoch, D Harris (rep J Ewens, 60min), D O'Mahony; S Howard, R Elliott; A Ozdemir (rep A Olver, 53), J Richards, C Boyd, A Codling (rep J Cockle, 49), S Murray, R Winters (rep Cockle, 14-18), J Forster, J Paramore

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, C Yates, S Hanley; S Howarth, K Ellis; D Bell, P Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui, C Murphy (rep D Baldwin, 51), P Anglesea, A Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain

Referee: T Fisher (Cheshire).

Determined Diver has Scotland all at sea

England......................................34
Scotland......................................7

BY ALAN PEAREY

IF ENGLAND'S women are to close the gap on New Zealand, the world champions, they could do with a few more like Chris Diver. Yesterday the full back, absent from England's last outing in the World Cup third place play-off last May, provided the highlight of a scrappy victory over Scotland when she caught a high ball in her own 22 and with explosive pace raced the length of the field to score.

The Sussex firefighter's solo effort was the fifth of six England tries that launched Gill Burns's side into the first official Five Nations Championship in emphatic fashion at the Richmond Athletic Ground.

Scotland, who had won the title last year after beating England 8-5, offered stern resistance but never remotely threatened to repeat that upset once Burns, the No 8, had cancelled out Rimma Lewis's third-minute try for the away side.

With the industrious Helen Clayton complementing Burns's power in the back row, and Emma Mitchell, the scrum half, looking as perky as anyone on the field, England won at a canter.

Mitchell and Burns, again, crossed before the break before Diver glided through within 40 seconds of the restart and, at 22-7, England — with seven Saracens players in their ranks — were home and dry, with the second half something of an error-strewn anticlimax.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Burns 2 (8, 28min), Diver 2 (41, 72), Mitchell (23), Crawford (80) Conversions: Collins, Burns. Scotland: Try: Lewis Conversion: Chalmers.

Swansea prolong defiance

Bridgend 16
Swansea....................................43

BY GERALD DAVIES

THE battle of words between the Welsh Rugby Union on the one hand and Cardiff and Swansea on the other is set to continue. Yesterday was the deadline when both clubs were meant to have paid the £150,000 fine imposed for playing unsanctioned fixtures against teams from the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Both clubs have declined to pay and do not intend to do so. What the penalty is for failing to comply remains unclear.

On Saturday, Cardiff and Swansea qualified for the quarter-finals of the union's cup competition sponsored by SWALEC. Thus their presence is secure for the moment since the union cannot contemplate alienating SWALEC, who would insist that both Cardiff and Swansea remain in the tournament.

Bridgend, second from bottom of the premier division, gave a good account of themselves in the first half. With all the enthusiasm that a one-off cup game can motivate and the position of underdog can enhance, the home team forced the game their way. Swansea could hardly settle, committing all sorts of errors so as to allow Cull to kick a couple of penalty goals.

When Durston, who had a fine match, kicked into the open, Swansea were so spread-eagled that three Bridgend players were given the choice to pick up the ball. It was Andrew Williams who did so and scored the try.

They might have extended this advantage had Cull been more accurate with three other penalty chances, but a 13-3 lead was never going to be enough. Swansea forced three scrummages on their opponents' line in the fourth minute of first-half extra time and eventually Rhodri Jones scrambled into the scrum to claim a score. In the second half, Swansea raised the pace and looked to the scrum to destroy what was left of Bridgend's efforts. Immediately after the restart Arwel Thomas scored a try and thereafter it all became predictable.

SCORERS: Bridgend: Try: A Williams (15min) Conversion: Cull. Penalty goals: Cull 3 (10, 38, 47). Swansea: Tries: R Jones (40), Thomas (43), Moriarty (51), penalty try (67), Arnold (77), Jenkins (79) Conversions: Thomas 4, Davies. Penalty goal: Thomas (29)

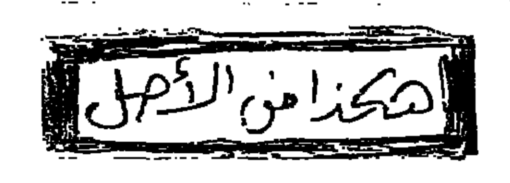
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bridgend first): 3-0, 10-0, 10-3, 13-3, 13-10 (half-time), 13-17, 16-17, 16-22, 16-29, 16-36, 16-43

BRIDGEND: G Cull, J Taylor (rep. S Greenaway, 40min), S Winn, L Thomas, O Thomas, A Durston, A Jenkins; L Manning (rep. R Jones, 53); G Thomas (rep: A Joy, 65), J White, S Ford, C Stephens, O Lloyd, G Thomas (rep: P Thomas, 76), A Williams (rep: S Pearce, 76).

SWANSEA: D Weatherley; R Rees, M Taylor, S Gibbs, M Robinson; A Thomas (rep. L Davies, 77), R Jones; D Morris, G Jenkins, C Anthony (rep B Evans, 50), P Arnold, A Moore, P Moriarty, C Charvis, L Jones.

Referee: C Thomas (Neath).

Cup draw, page 39



Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Veteran Great Britain stand-off orchestrates Leeds victory

St Helens trampled underfoot by Powell

Leeds Rhinos....................24
St Helens........................16

By Christopher Irvine

IN 15 years of rugby league, Daryl Powell has only been to Wembley with Great Britain. Like everyone else associated with Leeds Rhinos, the veteran stand-off half, who again made a mockery of his troublesome feet as St Helens went the way of Wigan Warriors at Headingley on Saturday, is taking nothing for granted.

The fact that he had not required a painkilling injection, as Leeds maintained their nerve and discipline to reach the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals, was a bonus. At 33, Leeds would be advised to wrap Powell in cotton wool. "There's a chip and a spur growing on a bone in my foot, so I've a problem. I always thought once I was past 32, I'd just take it year by year," he said.

Now that Tony Kemp and Graham Holroyd have left, Leeds need Powell fit and in his present form. Karl Pratt, Powell's junior by 15 years, was bought from Featherstone Rovers as an outstanding stand-off prospect. In the meantime, the ploy of beginning there with Powell and pushing Iestyn Harris up from full back later in games continues to work nicely.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, is an admirer. "You need your tough, experienced men to lead the way. Daryl was outstanding for the time he was on, both in attack and defence. Other guys feed off that," he said.

Powell, a confessed long shot for the coaching position when Murray leaves for North Sydney in October, said: "The way Wigan got themselves as a dynasty in the game is what this club's aiming for." With only a Yorkshire Cup victory to speak of in the 21 years since they last lifted the Challenge Cup, Leeds have reckoned before that they have a winning blend and been disappointed.

This time they may be proved right, not simply because they have a pack that refuses to buckle, but because they can adapt their game. Whereas Wigan were run off their feet, St Helens invited an arm wrestle and flinched. Leeds were initially sucked in by niggly spoiling, but adjusted the way that they defended, cleaned up the rucks and, significantly, conceded only two penalties in the second half, while St Helens failed to curb their ill-discipline, which Harris punished with six penalty goals.

The errant forward trio of Davidson, Nickle and Matautia would be advised to learn controlled aggression, which Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach, once showed. The uncompromising nature of Hanley's team was not so much in question as the flair, with which St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

Verve rarely matched the St Helens workrate, and the impetus of Jackson coming on at hooker for Leeds set in motion their opening try by Ryan Sheridan. The darting Sheridan was at the heart of their other try by Newton after Harris had kicked St Helens into submission. Atcheson pocketed a late consolation, but on the eve of a long JJB Super League campaign, the road ahead looks rockier for Hanley than for his former club.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Sheridan, Newton. Goals: Harris (8). St Helens: Tries: Newlove, Atcheson. Goals: Long (4)
LEEDS RHINOS: I Harris; L Rivett, R Blackmore, B Godden, F Cummins; D Powell, R Sheridan; M Masella, T Newton, D Fleary, A Morley, A Farrell, M Glanville. Substitutes: M St Hilaire, L Jackson, A Hay, J Mathiou.
ST HELENS: P Atcheson; C Smith, T Stewart, P Newlove, F Tuilagi; T Martyn, S Long; J O'Neill, K Cunningham, P Davidson, A Perelini, S Nickle, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: K Iro, P Adamson, V Matautia, P Wellens.
Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

JOHN GILES

Blackmore brushes Martyn, of St Helens, aside during Leeds Rhinos' victory at Headingley on Saturday

Wolves begin to justify bold optimism

Warrington Wolves...........34
Halifax Blue Sox.................4

By Christopher Irvine

THERE is nothing like a cup run to inspire confidence, and with new backers and Peter Deakin, from Saracens, newly installed in the chief executive's seat, Wilderspool is a hotbed of optimism. And with justification after Warrington Wolves' victory yesterday.

The feel-good factor was confirmed by an impressive defeat of Halifax Blue Sox, for whom the first round of JJB Super League matches next weekend presents an early chance for revenge. Halifax were eliminated early from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year and reached the play-offs by finishing third in the league, but Warrington gave a clear indication of the stiffer competition this season.

More satisfying than tries by four of their back line and another by Roper, a centre converted to loose forward, was restricting Halifax to just two penalty goals by Holroyd. "That's the best defence since I've been here," Darryl van de Velde, the Warrington coach, said.

Halifax were only 10-4 behind and had been restored to their full complement, with Mercer's re-emergence from the sin-bin, when they were caught offside in the 54th minute. Roper tapped to himself on the Warrington 20-metre line and was out of sight by the time that the Blue Sox players realised what was happening. Warrington were inspired by the livewire Briers at scrum half, while Nutley, the prop, was everwhere. With Farrar hugely influential in the rearguard effort, Halifax never looked like adding to their points in the second half.

Three of Warrington's tries got the green light by the video referee, the first after five minutes when a charge down by McCurrie came under scrutiny in the build-up to a score by the 34-year-old Forster, the only survivor of Warrington's last Wembley final appearance, in 1990. Warrington could have paid for a clutch of missed chances in the first half, but with a strong wind at their backs in the second, they blew away a disjointed Halifax.

Hunte's clever footwork enabled him to profit from spillages by Bloem and Gibson. Kohe-Love eased past Cardiss to score beneath the posts, before Penny's late try was converted by Briers.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Forster, Roper, Hunte, Kohe-Love, Penny. Goals: Briers (7). Halifax Blue Sox: Goals: Holroyd (2)
WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny; J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster; S Wilson, L Briers; M Hilton, D Farrar, D Nutley, S Gilbes, S McCurrie, J Roper. Substitutes: D Hanger, M Wainwright, G Chambers, I Knott.
HALIFAX BLUE SOX: G Holroyd; J Bloem, D Gibson, A Craig, D Bouveng; C Chester, G Clinch; P Broadbent, P Rowley, K Skerrett, R Marshall, C Gillespie, G Mercer. Substitutes: N Pinkney, M Moana, D Cardiss, D Clark.
Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

Salford storm through

Huddersfield Giants 14
Salford Reds.....................22

By Peter Wilson

SALFORD Red's much-changed team still have their sights set on going one step farther than a year ago when they reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

They booked their quarter-final place against Castleford Tigres by holding off the spirited challenge of Huddersfield Giants and it was a credit to both sides that they were able to beat the elements — driving rain and a strong wind — to provide such an entertaining contest.

The long-anticipated battle of the scrum halves was edged by Martin Crompton, who scored one try and was behind much of the damage to the Huddersfield cause. Not that blame for the Giants' defeat could be heaped on the shoulders of Bobby Goulding, his threequarter rival, who never gave an inch in a gruelling struggle.

A penalty by Goulding put Huddersfield in front but Salford were the first to exploit the conditions when Steve Blakeley hoisted a high kick that Paul Cook failed to gather and Crompton was able to pounce for the opening try after 17 minutes.

Huddersfield hit back in almost identical circumstances. This time it was Goulding who launched a high kick, Bobby Thompson who failed to gather and Danny Arnold who went over for the try. Goulding's conversion into the wind put the Giants in front, but their lead only lasted a couple of minutes before Garen Casey crossed for the first of his two tries.

Facing a two-point deficit at the break, any optimism Huddersfield harboured was shattered five minutes into the second half, when a short kick from Crompton skidded across the wet surface and Casey timed his dive to perfection and touched down.

Jim Lenihan scored to keep the Giants in the hunt, but their chances disappeared three minutes before the end when Scott Martin crossed unchallenged for the score that took the Reds out of reach.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Tries: Lenihan, Arnold. Goals: Goulding (3). Salford: Goals: Blakeley (3). Tries: Casey (2), Martin, Crompton.
HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: D Arnold; P Cook, J Lenihan, P Loughlin, A Cheetham, C Weston, B Goulding; N Fozzard, D Russell, B Richards, D Boughton, J Berry, M Sturm. Substitutes: N Wright, P Reilly, B Hudson, I Pickavance.
SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent; J Hayes, B Thompson, G Casey, P Clarke, S Blakeley, M Crompton, N Baynes, U Aker, P Southern, H Smith, D Brown, D Hulme. Substitutes: S Martin, P Highton, G Buggs, J Faimalo
Referee: S Presley (Castleford)

Bulls avoid Rhinos in draw for last eight

LEEDS RHINOS and Bradford Bulls, the two favourites, were kept apart in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final draw last night (Christopher Irvine writes). The revitalised Warrington Wolves were presented with a difficult tie away to Bradford on Sunday week and an early return to his former club for Peter Deakin, their new chief executive.

The other televised match, on the BBC the day before, is likely to be the other all-JJB Super League tie between Castleford Tigers, who eliminated York last Friday, and Salford Reds. Widnes hung on against Leigh yesterday to win 20-17 and earned home advantage once more against Leeds.

Whitehaven are the only other Northern Ford Premiership side left in the competition after they beat Oldham 18-2. They face the longest trip in rugby league, from Cumbria, to face London Broncos at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Martin Offiah, who missed most of last season, scored London's only try as they survived a scare away at Hull Kingston Rovers in a grim 6-0 victory, which put them into the last eight for only the second time.

QUARTER-FINALS

London v Whitehaven
Castleford v Salford
Widnes v Leeds
Bradford v Warrington

☐ Ties to be played weekend of March 13-14

McNamara stands out

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...8
Bradford Bulls.................26

By Martin Richards

STEVE McNAMARA, the Bradford Bulls captain, whose place is by no means guaranteed in the strongest line-up, played a pivotal role as they gained a bruising passage into the quarter-finals of the Challenege Cup yesterday. Expectations of a runaway win for Bradford were not realised, for the Belle Vue mud and a swirling wind helped close the gap in class.

Wakefield lived up to their new name, Wildcats, even after Bradford had opened up a 14-2 lead after 21 minutes. Henry Paul put Bradford ahead when he picked up a loose ball to score wide out before Stuart Fielden, an impressive young forward, crossed unopposed after McNamara's sweetly-timed pass had sucked in the Wakefield cover.

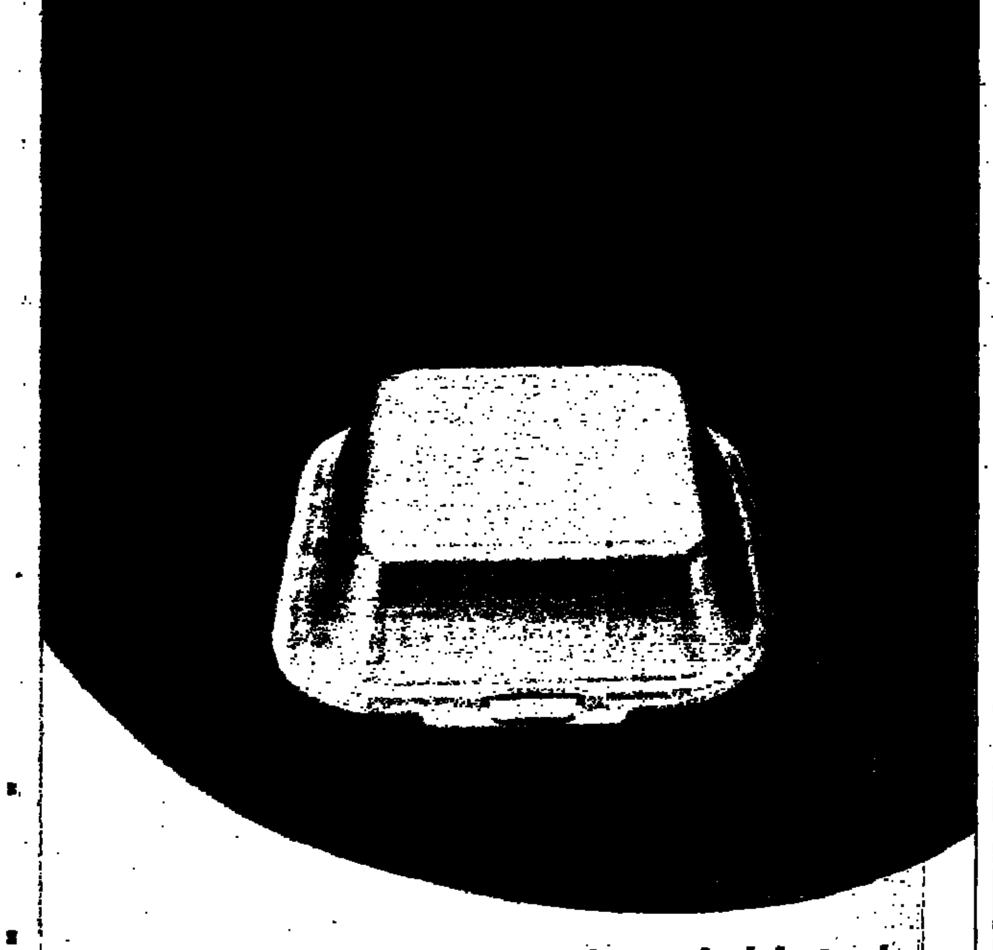
Wakefield, anxious to dispel fears that they will be the whipping boys of Super League this season, dug deep and came up with a rousing try from their Australian stand-off, Shane Kenward, a minute into the second half after Michael Withers had knocked on straight from the kick-off.

Bradford were suddenly on the back foot and it took another intervention by McNamara to settle matters. He threw only the faintest of dummies but the defence opened up invitingly and the loose forward charged through for a 58th-minute try which took all the sting out of Wakefield's revival. James Lowes, the hooker, added a fourth try with ten minutes remaining.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said: "It was an ugly match in ugly conditions and we didn't adapt well enough to the wind and the wet. But all credit to Wakefield who showed great character. But we didn't do the smart things very well today."

Bradford's scrum half, Paul Deacon, retired at half-time with a leg injury after landing three kicks at goal and Paul also received an injury, which forced him to leave the field in the second half.

SCORERS: Wakefield Trinity: Try: Kenward. Goals: Hodgson (2). Bradford Bulls: Tries: H Paul, Fielden, McNamara, Lowes. Goals: Deacon (3), McNamara (2).
WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS: A Hodgson; L Stott, A Brunker, K Crouthers, N Law; S Kenward, G Tomlinson; F Stephenson, R Southernwood, A Fisher, G Price, W Paching, T Kemp. Substitutes: D March, W McDonald, F Watene, G Law.
BRADFORD BULLS: M Withers; T Vaikona, D Peacock, S Naylor, N McAvoy; H Paul, P Deacon; B McDermott, J Lowes, S Fielden, B Dwyer, D Boyle, S McNamara. Substitutes: N Harmon, J Donougher, M Forshaw, W Jowitt.
Referee: S Nicholson (Whitehaven)



Bromsgrove win in usual style

By John Goodbody

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

THERE is little disputing the recent dominance of Bromsgrove at under-18 girls' hockey. Yesterday, in the rain and gusts of Milton Keynes, they took the British Aerospace national title for the third successive year with a performance of consummate maturity.

Last year they beat the other four regional winners in the finals by scoring 18 goals and conceding none with a team that included Lucilla Wright, the full England international. This season, they have Sally Walton and Jane Allen, who have both represented England schools, as well as three German age-group internationals who are studying at the Worcestershire school for a year.

The cumulative effect has been impressive. Last Wednesday they warmed up for this tournament by drawing 0-0 with Cambridge University, who were virtually at full strength. Already winners of the national under-18 indoor title this season, Bromsgrove had few evident weaknesses yesterday as they completed a unique double of national championships.

They successively beat Arnold School, Blackpool, Wycombe High School, and King's Canterbury, all by 3-0. In the last game of the round they won 4-0 against Millfield, who earlier had been beaten 1-0 by Wycombe but had looked the most likely challengers to Bromsgrove.

Eight of the Bromsgrove goals were scored by the long-striding Walton, who plays as an advanced striker and who also had near misses with some deft reverse-stick shots. "Another day they would have gone in," she said afterwards. "It was a real team performance from us but having the three Germans made it all possible."

The trio of Ulrike Patschkowski, Luisa Leisewitz and Laura Lembke gave an impetus to the team because of their physical presence and the difficulty opponents found in getting the ball away from them. They are part of a group of 28 Germans attending the independent school this year, although they do not receive any sports bursaries.

Caroline Ralph, the Bromsgrove team manager, said: "We got better and better as the day went on. The success of the under-18s has been the result of the girls playing together in the younger age groups and the results coming to fruition at senior level.

"We are almost there with the under-16s. "The programme is coming through so that we have a concrete package at all age levels. It is a long-term process."

RESULTS: Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire 3 Arnold School, Blackpool 0; Millfield, Somerset 2 Wycombe HS, Buckinghamshire 1; Arnold 0 King's Canterbury 1; Wycombe 0 Bromsgrove 3; King's 0 Millfield 1; Wycombe 0 Arnold 0, Bromsgrove 3 King's 0; Arnold 0 Millfield 1; King's 0 Wycombe 1, Millfield 0 Bromsgrove 4. Final placings: 1, Bromsgrove 12pts; 2, Wycombe 7; 3, Millfield 6; 4, King's 3; 5, Arnold 1



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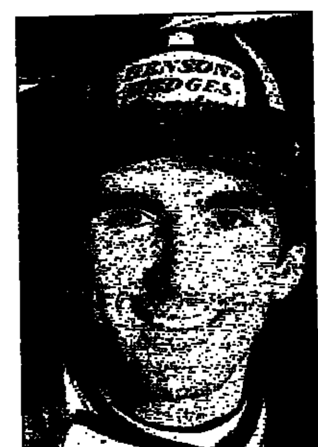
THE SCORING SYSTEM

DRIVERS ***For each lap completed***: 1 point. ***Finishing position***: 1st 60 points; 2nd 50; 3rd 40; 4th 30; 5th 29; 6th 28; 7th 27; 8th 26; 9th 25; 10th 24; 11th 23; 12th 22; 13th 21; 14th 20; 15th 19; 16th 18; 17th 17; 18th 16; 19th 15; 20th 14. ***Qualifying position***: Pole 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 24; 4th 23; 5th 22; 6th 21; 7th 20; 8th 19; 9th 18; 10th 17; 11th 16; 12th 15; 13th 14; 14th 13; 15th 12; 16th 11; 17th 10; 18th 9; 19th 8; 20th 7. ***Improvement from starting grid to finishing position***: 3 points per place improved. ***Fastest lap***: 10 points. ***Penalty points***: Any incident resulting in a driver being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points. Black flag -20 points

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BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. ***Correctly predicting winning driver***: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW







Damon Hill · David Coulthard · Mika Hakkinen · Michael Schumacher · Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS / **CONSTRUCTORS**

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	GROUP D
01 Mika Hakkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	12 [illegible]	[illegible]	23 McLaren	29 Arrows
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 [illegible]	[illegible]	24 Ferrari	30 BAR
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 [illegible]	[illegible]	25 Williams	31 Stewart
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	[illegible]	26 Jordan	32 Prost
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 [illegible]	22 [illegible]	27 Benetton	33 Minardi
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gene	[illegible]	28 Sauber	

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TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply, the first of these is the Brazilian Grand Prix.

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THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

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GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS
1st 2nd 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

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Signature ....

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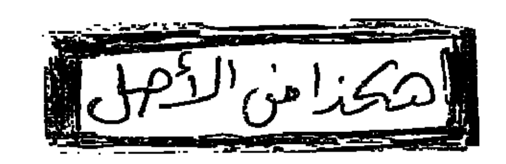
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Chris McGrath on a former champion smoothing over rough patches

Dunwoody shows fighting spirit


TONY HARRIS

Dr Leunt and Dunwoody take control in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton on Saturday

FIVE years ago, Racing Post Chase day at Kempton produced no fewer than eight Cheltenham Festival winners. While there might well have been one or two trials on Saturday that signposted the way to profit in the Cotswolds — where the delirium commences a fortnight tomorrow — perhaps the most significant test this year was passed on two legs rather than four.

Richard Dunwoody, who gave Dr Leunt an immaculate ride to win the Racing Post Chase, has rather given the impression in recent weeks that he is prey to some inhibition of body or soul.

Much the ugliest symptom had emerged at Ascot the previous Saturday, when a weighing-room scuffle with Mick Fitzgerald tarnished the gracious reputation of both men, merited equally in and out of the saddle.

They have evidently put their spat behind them and the temptation to dramatise the episode has been sensibly resisted by others, too. The stewards, for instance, turned a discreetly blind eye.

Between two such senior jockeys, it was a telling measure of the stresses of their perilous business. Sometimes, grievances forged in the heat of racecourse battle are most effectively doused by primitive means, to the superficial cost of hissing and steam.

Even so, the incident surely compromised Dunwoody's standing among his colleagues. Its larger context compounded concern about the former champion, whose talent is so justly treasured. An old arm injury was revived by a fall in January, and he has had one or two other nasty crash landings recently. He is heroically brave, make no mistake, with an utterly intransigent attitude to pain. For whatever reason, however, he has endured a thin time with winners of late, ending a barren sequence of 28 rides at Doncaster on Thursday.

Though he will resent any such inference, this recent lack of conviction could be attributable to two growing preoccupations.

First there is Florida Pearl, of whom Ireland has such crushing expectations in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. This horse could provide ample incentive for Dunwoody, 35, to look forward to next season. On the other hand, disappointment might conceivably prompt him to wonder what lies beyond the other imminent junction in his career. His second success on Saturday, in the bumper, was his 83rd of the season and leaves him just 17 short of Peter Scudamore's all-time record for career wins.

Dunwoody has already revealed the business acumen to keep him profitably busy when he does choose to retire. For now, happily, he can legitimately claim to preserve both his princely talent and the hunger that sustains it. The broad smile that Dr Leunt restored to his face reflected his satisfaction at riding the biggest winner so far trained by Philip Hobbs. Dunwoody asserted his prerogative to the inside rail and always had Dr Leunt jumping slickly in the van, while conserving enough to fight off The Land Agent in the closing stages. Dr Leunt now returns to Cheltenham, probably for the Cathcart Chase.

The same race is a possibility for Makounji after she cashed in on her preposterous allowances in the Mitsubishi Shogun Pendil Trophy. The Guinness Arkle Trophy is also under consideration by Nick Henderson, who shared two other Kempton winners with Fitzgerald to embellish their excellent season.

Henderson expects Katarino, favourite for the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, to be "a lot sharper" for his proficient rehearsal in the Voice Newspaper Adonis Juvenile Novices' Hurdle.

Not even Henderson's unerring touch, however, could elevate Fiddling The Facts from second place, for the third race running, in the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock. Young Kenny, the winner, was given a splendid ride by Brendan Powell — a man, notionally, even more in the evening of his career than Dunwoody. There is, quite obviously, plenty of life in the old dogs yet.

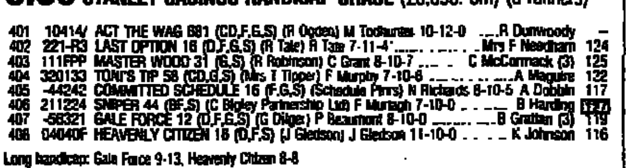
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LAST OPTION (3.30 Newcastle)

This progressive hunter chaser beat Double Thriller last season and looks well treated for his handicap debut.

NB: Chevalier Errant (2.00 Newcastle)

Thunderer found Go-Informal (14-1) for the Armchair Investor on Saturday and included Good Heart (12-1) among five Haydock winners.



LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unpl. since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	119	71	71	2	-93.78
Mrs M Reveley	78	60	52	3	-2.75
P Nicholls	67	59	24	4	-38.48
P Hobbs	66	61	39	2	+5.82
D Nicholson	58	51	48	2	-48.08
Miss V Williams	53	28	28	3	+5.21

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	123	74	54	0	-109.89
R Johnson	96	95	96	2	-84.86
M A Fitzgerald	89	49	59	2	+3.43
N Williamson	88	54	51	8	+8.15
R Dunwoody	83	54	42	0	-28.91
T J Murphy	59	38	32	3	+165.38

Pritchard takes honours

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

JULIAN PRITCHARD took Saturday's riding honours when landing a treble at the **North Herefordshire's** Whitwick Manor meeting.

Pritchard, 31, who lives nearby at Ledbury and who has been national champion rider for the past two seasons, leapt into second place in the table with nine winners, one behind the leader, Ben Pollock, who achieved a single success on Tombola at the **Essex Farmers** meeting.

A competitive person, Pritchard rued the winners that got away. "It should have been six," he said, reflecting on an additional two second places and a fall when on his way to victory in the maiden.

His three wins came on Cruise A Hoop (3-1), who brushed aside Better Future (4-6) in the 14-runner men's open. Capstown Bay (5-4) and Blue Rosette (5-4), who took divisions of the restricted race — the first two were for trainer Nickie Sheppard and the third for the rider's mother, Gill.

Cruise A Hoop, whose fast and flat jumping is ideally suited to point-to-point fences, is a consistent horse and his defeat of Better Future was less of a shock than the eclipse of Apatura King at the **Hursley Hambledon** meeting.

With Lord Relic absent after being pinched by a farrier's nail, Apatura King was sent off the odds-on favourite but faded into fifth as Buonarotti (7-1) rallied to peg back The Bold Abbot. The winner was completing a double for Katie Buckett, the Hampshire trainer, who also saddled Forest Musk to land the hunt race.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Kempton Park

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

2.00 (2m ch) 1, **Super Tactics** (A Thornton, 2-1); 2, Kadastrof (7-2); 3, Aedean (66-1). Lake Kariba Evens fav. 6 ran. Sh hd, dist. R Alner. Tote £2.90; £1.70, £1.60. DF £3.80. CSF £7.99.

2.35 (2m hdle) 1, **Premier Generation** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-1); 2, Davoski (9-4); 3, Prominent Profile (11-8 fav). 8 ran. NR: Alhosaam. ¾, 2½. N Henderson. Tote £5.40; £2.00, £1.70. DF £6.10. CSF £17.49.

3.05 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Makounji** (M A Fitzgerald, 4-11 fav); 2, No Retreat (9-2); 3, King Of Sparta (9-1). 4 ran. 27l, 29l. N Henderson. Tote £1.40. DF £1.80. CSF £2.34.

3.35 (2m hdle) 1, **Katarino** (M A Fitzgerald, 4-7 fav); 2, Scarlet Pimpernel (15-8); 3, Temper Lad (10-1). 6 ran. 8l, 18l. N Henderson. Tote £1.60; £1.10, £1.60. DF £1.50. CSF £1.80.

4.10 (3m ch) 1, **Dr Leunt** (R Dunwoody, 3-1 fav); 2, The Land Agent (9-2); 3, Even Flow (5-1). 8 ran. NR: Unguided Missile. 3½, 7l. P Hobbs. Tote £3.40; £1.40, £1.60, £2.10. DF £6.30. CSF £14.73. Tricast £54.72.

4.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Pharaneer** (R Thornton, 11-2); 2, Anzum (8-1); 3, Ivor's Flutter (16-1). Ocean Hawk (6th) Pridwell 3-1 jt-favs. 8 ran. 8l, 1¼. D Nicholson. Tote £6.80; £1.50, £2.30, £2.80. DF £35.50. CSF £40.74. Tricast £573.68.

5.15 (2m flat) 1, **Scarlet Emperor** (R Dunwoody, 9-4); 2, Usk Valley (2-1 fav); 3, Captain Dee Cee (15-2). 8 ran. NR: Boatswain, No Tale To Tell. 1½, 15l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote £3.40; £1.30, £1.20, £2.10. DF £4.20. CSF £6.40.

Placepot: £51.00. Quadpot: £11.40.

Haydock Park

Musselburgh

Lingfield Park




NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.00 Raivue. 2.30 Fen Terrier. 3.00 Durano. 3.30 SNIPER (nap). 4.00 Charlie Banker. 4.35 Dan De Man. 5.05 Shuildante.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 SNIPER.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 ADVENT RACECOURSE CATERING MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,463: 2m) (22 runners)

2.30 SV RUTTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,695: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

3.00 NORTHERN COMPUTER FAIR SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£1,700: 2m) (20 runners)

3.30 STANLEY CASINOS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,695: 3m) (8 runners)

401 10414/ ACT THE WAG 881 (CD,F,G,S) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 10-12-0 ... R Dunwoody —
402 221-R3 LAST OPTION 16 (D,F,G,S) (R Tate) R Tate 7-11-4 ... Mrs F Needham 124
403 111FPP MASTER WOOD 31 (G,S) (R Robinson) C Grant 8-10-7 ... C McCormack (3) 125
404 320133 TONI'S TIP 58 (CD,G,S) (Mrs I Tipper) F Murphy 7-10-6 ... A Maguire 122
405 -44242 COMMITTED SCHEDULE 16 (F,G,S) (Schedule Pinrs) N Richards 8-10-5 A Dobbin 117
406 211224 SNIPER 44 (BF,S) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) F Murtagh 7-10-0 ... B Harding
407 -58321 GALE FORCE 12 (D,F,G,S) (G Dilger) P Beaumont 8-10-0 ... B Grattan (3) 119
408 04040F HEAVENLY CITIZEN 18 (D,F,S) (J Gledson) J Gledson 11-10-0 ... K Johnson 116

4.00 LADBROKE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£5,150: 3m) (7 runners)

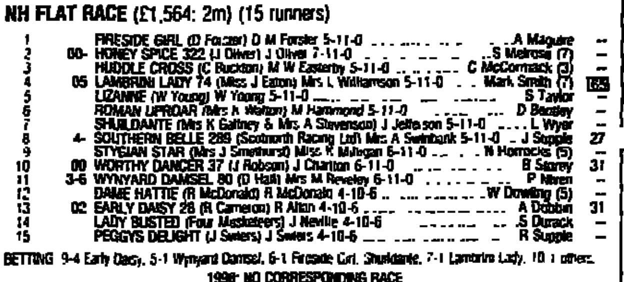
4.35 JAMES FLETCHER MARQUEES NOVICES CHASE (£2,931: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

5.05 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (£1,564: 2m) (15 runners)

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Honey Spice beaten a distance 18th of 19 to Alrraydoubleyou in national hunt flat race at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to soft). Lambrini Lady 26l 5th of 11 to No Quarter in national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, soft). Southern Belle 28l 4th of 14 to Grayrose Fleur in mares national hunt flat at Bangor (2m 1f, good). Worthy Dancer beaten a distance last of 17 to Ireland's Eye in maiden nat hunt flat at Catterick (2m, soft). Wynyard Damsel 15l 6th of 18 to Baccacci in national hunt flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Early Daisy 1l 2nd of 3 to Ballet-K in mares national hunt flat at Ayr (2m, soft).

LAMBRINI LADY is best of those with experience, but vulnerable to a newcomer



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
Mrs M Reveley	48	190	25.3	A Dempsey	5	12	41.7
J Jefferson	12	56	21.4	P Niven	42	141	29.6
F Murphy	8	45	17.8	A Maguire	4	25	16.0
M W Easterby	12	85	14.1	A Dobbin	17	123	13.8
L Lungo	11	78	14.1	R McGrath	7	59	11.9
W Cunningham	3	24	12.5	R Supple	12	104	11.5

Direct Route bid in balance

DIRECT ROUTE, a leading contender for the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival on March 17, is not certain to run. Howard Johnson's Tingle Creek winner broke a blood vessel when finishing fourth to Teeton Mill in the Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase nine days ago.

"We haven't had a saddle on him since Ascot," Johnson said yesterday. "He's just out in the field. I don't know what to do about Cheltenham with him at the moment. He'll start cantering again this week and then I'll know a bit more. He lost a lot of weight at Ascot and we are only just getting it back on him. He's still in at Cheltenham and we'll try and get him there but it's not the be all and end all."

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

2.20 Anns Girl. 2.50 Polar Flight. 3.20 Strong Tel. 3.50 Doctor Bravious. 4.25 Whippers Delight. 4.55 My Tern.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

2.20 HEADWAY HURSTWOOD PARK MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,653: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

2.50 PARAFIX TAPES AND CONVERSIONS LTD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,548: 2m 4f) (14)

8 /PP- JUST A BEAU 312 Miss A N-Smith 8-11-3 Edgar Byrne (7) —
9 404 POUNSLEY MILL 59 J Gifford 6-11-3 ... L Aspell 80
10 3P0 SHALAINES PRIDE 34 T McGovern 6-11-3 ... W Marston —
11 P THE BOREEN STALKER 12 L A Dace 8-11-3 O Burrows (5) —
12 25-0 THE RED RECTOR 16 K Bailey 6-11-3 ... R Wakley 16
13 PP20 WIXOE WONDER 21 (G) M Bradstock 9-11-3 ... G Bradley —
14 6 WHERE'S ALBERT 12 J R Poulton 4-10-8 ... J Magee —

11-10 Polar Flight, 11-4 Gemstone, 8-1 Pounsley Mill, 10-1 Alona, The Red Rector, 14-1 Wixoe Wonder, 16-1 Shalaines Pride, 25-1 others.

3.20 HEADWAY HURSTWOOD PARK NOVICES CHASE (£2,819: 3m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 P-14 EMERALD STATEMENT 37 (S) D Grissell 9-11-10 B Fenton 100
2 -3U1 STRONG TEL 14 (CD,S) M Pipe 9-11-10 ... A P McCoy 112
3 130U WOODLANDS BEAU 14 (D,G,S) R Alner 7-11-10 A Thornton
4 0P45 EDGE AHEAD 16 (B) Mrs D Haine 9-11-3 ... J Culloty —

5-4 Strong Tel, 2-1 Emerald Statement, 3-1 Woodlands Beau, 14-1 Edge Ahead.

3.50 LADBROKES LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE (FINAL) (£5,714: 2m 1f) (7)

1 124F NESSUN DORO 13 (CD,S) S Mellor 7-12-0 Mr N Fehily (7) 99
2 2345 TICKERTY'S GIFT 24 (B,F,G,S) G L Moore 9-11-10 A P McCoy
3 4661 IT'S WALLACE 14 (B,C,S) J C Poulton 6-10-12 M Batchelor (5) 106
4 0115 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 11 (B,BF,CD,S) J R Poulton 6-10-5 Edgar Byrne (7) 105
5 115P ZAFARELLI 14 (B,CD,S) J Jenkins 5-10-4 R Farrant 77

4.25 GAY KINDERSLEY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,420: 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

4.55 CLAYTON MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,373: 2m 4f) (7)

7 2P-P ELL GEE 21 (B) Mrs P Townsley 9-10-0 Miss C Townsley (7) —

5-2 My Tern, 7-2 Royal Ruler, 9-2 Selective Rose, 5-1 Poplin, 11-2 Derrybelle, 8-1 Golden Lily, 33-1 Ell Gee.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 30 winners from 66 runners, 45.5%; G Charles-Jones, 4 from 10, 40.0%; N Henderson, 7 from 20, 35.0%; Miss V Williams, 4 from 13, 30.8%; M Muggeridge, 4 from 15, 26.7%; T McGovern, 11 from 54, 20.4%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 39 winners from 111 rides, 35.1%; C Webb, 4 from 12, 33.3%; R Johnson, 8 from 34, 23.5%; G Bradley, 8 from 35, 22.9%; N Williamson, 6 from 35, 17.1%; W Marston, 8 from 52, 15.4%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newcastle: 3.00 Kemo Sabo. **Plumpton:** 2.20 General Assembly. 4.55 Ell Gee.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.40 Desert Invader. 2.10 Kosevo. 2.40 Irish Cream. 3.10 Anonym. 3.40 Westside Flyer. 4.10 *Chaliapin. 4.45 Chaluz. 5.15 Dick Turpin.*

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.40 CAUCASUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,522: 7f) (11 runners)

2.10 CAUCASUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,514: 7f) (10)

2.40 ROCKY STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,341: 1m) (2)

3.10 RICHARD HARDWICK 21ST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (£3,767: 1m) (8)

1 010- JAY-OWE-TWO 79 (C,D,F,S) R Whitaker 5-9-11 D McKeown 1
2 1204 JIBEREEN 26 (CD,F,G,S) P Howling 7-9-9 ... S Whitworth 6
3 336- URSA MAJOR 69 (CD) C Allen 5-9-7 ... J Weaver 4
4 0440 GODMERSHAM PARK 12 (CD) P Felgate 7-8-10 ... G Parkin 3
5 -133 MAGICAL SHOT 7 (BF,D) D Carroll 4-8-8 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 2
6 1362 WAITING KNIGHT 3 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-6 P McCabe 8
7 -521 WINDSHIFT 10 (V,CD) D Shaw 3-7-10 ... P Fitzsimons (7) 5
8 0-21 ANONYM 17 (CD,F,G) G M Moore 7-7-10 ... J Quinn 7

3-1 Jibereen, 9-2 Jay-Owe-Two, 11-2 Waiting Knight, 6-1 Ursa Major, 13-2 Godmersham Park, 7-1 Windshift, 8-1 Magical Shot, 10-1 Anonym.

3.40 APENNINES SELLING HANDICAP (Div I: £1,522: 6f) (11)

1 3-16 ROCK ISLAND LINE 14 (CD,S) G Woodward 5-9-10 P Roberts 8
2 0051 ABTAAL 17 (V,C,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-6 ... P McCabe 7
3 60-0 MARJORIE ROSE 10 (D,G) R Brotherton 6-9-5 ... S Drowne 2
4 0302 LITTLE IBNR 7 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-9-2 ... T G McLaughlin 6
5 0054 ABOVE BOARD 7 R Marvin 4-9-0 ... S Righton (7) 1
6 1204 WESTSIDE FLYER 6 (CD) A Kelleway 3-8-12 P Fredericks (5) 3
7 254- NITE OWLER 65 (CD) J Balding 5-8-11 ... J Edmunds 4
8 -043 KALAR 11 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 10-8-9 ... A Culhane 9
9 50-6 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 7 W Brisbourne 6-8-6 P Bradley (7) 10
10 -600 DANDY REGENT 21 (S) J L Harris 5-8-1 ... J Quinn 11
11 4302 SHARP RHYTHM 7 M Johnston 3-8-0 ... J Fanning 5

4.10 SIERRA MADRE MAIDEN STAKES (£2,034: 1m 4f) (6)

4.45 APENNINES SELLING HANDICAP (Div II: £1,514: 6f) (11)

5.15 PYRENEES HANDICAP (£3,585: 1m 3f) (7)

5 5325 SWIFT 5 (F,G) M Polglase 5-8-11 ... D McKeown 2
6 5512 GREEN BOPPER 5 (CD,G) G Woodward 6-8-11 ... C Lowther 3
7 30-0 MANFUL 14 (B,CD,F,S) J Hetherton 7-7-10 ... L Charnock 6

7-4 Green Bopper, 7-2 Dick Turpin, 5-1 Raed, 7-1 Night City, Swift, 8-1 Dancing Rio, 25-1 Manful.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Kelleway, 6 winners from 11 runners, 54.5%; M Johnston, 43 from 217, 19.8%; D Carroll, 4 from 21, 19.0%; P Haslam, 24 from 131, 18.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 90, 16.7%; P Howling, 9 from 64, 14.1%.

JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 8 winners from 26 rides, 30.8%; N Day, 8 from 36, 22.2%; Kimberley Hart, 11 from 53, 20.8%; P Fredericks, 5 from 27, 18.5%; G Parkin, 12 from 69, 17.4%; J Weaver, 37 from 225, 16.4%.

When there's more to fishing than fish

Brian Clarke finds that a watching brief on new waters can pay dividends



One to bank on: catching a prized predator will bring smiles, but sometimes just being near to a river may be enough to satisfy an angler

The motto of a club that I belong to is *Piscator non solum piscatur*. It more or less translates as "there is more to fishing than fish". Roderick Haig-Brown, the great English writer who lived in America, went further. He suggested that fishing might just be an excuse to be near rivers.

Anyone who has held a rod for a season or two will agree with the first. Last week, exploring a new piece of water that I will be fishing this year, I came close to believing the second. I had gone to get my bearings: to relate the plan on the map to the view from the bank; to dip myself into the sights and sounds; to drool just a little. So I took no rod.

It was a splodging walk. The river had been over its banks for weeks and had just slid back. Pools were winking from the meadows like scattered coins. The grass was laid flat as though by a wind. The debris of the flood was all around — trapped in trailing branches or left high and dry where the water had dropped it.

The first place I came to was a shallow bay. Bird tracks and animal tracks marked pathways around the margins. A sudden movement smudged my eye and I half-glimpsed fur. It crossed the ground between a couple of fallen branches and melted between them. It had been low and fluid, had been there and gone so quickly that I might have imagined it. A pity that I hadn't. A mink. Damn.

A little upstream, a willow had fallen over the water. It was massively tangled, so dense that it pushed the heavy water into the far bank. Beyond the tree's end, the river raced. Behind the tree in summer, there would be slow water. A crinkle on the surface would mark the divide. Fish would be able to lie in the slow water and dine on the food that the fast water dropped.

The crinkle would be an excellent place for chub, dace, roach, trout — you name it. Barbel might lie out in the current. There would be at least one pike in the calm behind the branch. It would lie there, cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim, its fins turning and idling, its tail-edge crinkling, ready to move forward like an aimed shadow, ready to gather itself for its ravening rush.

Further upstream, I startled a snipe. A heron laboured overhead, tilted a little, bent its wings over curves of air and glided down them into the near middle-distance. The pennants of last year's sedges streamed in a non-existent wind. Ice in a puddle crunched underfoot.

I had been told about the Bailey bridge. It crossed the top of one of the beats that is reserved for trout fishing. The water slid under the bridge and widened into a great sweep of pewter, rumpling and racing. In summer it would be shallow enough to wade. Sometimes, I had been told, great fish were taken from this stretch, mostly at last light.

> 'There would be at least one pike behind the branch, lying cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim'

I stood on the bridge and looked downstream. The world faded. I could feel the warmth of June and see the sun going low and the ripe-for-mating flies gauzing the air. Broad backs would break the surface and rings ebb out. That will be the wading line, if the bottom is good. The likely casting points would be there and there. I smiled. All nonsense, of course. When the river dropped, its character would change utterly and there would be no real telling where the fish would be. Still, I got two just by day-dreaming.

I turned downstream and crossed to the carrier that has the hatches in the middle. A beer can turned in endless circles in a vortex behind one of the gates. An oink of Canada geese wafted overhead. Two fallow deer, wearing their white hearts on their rumps, appeared from behind a bush and bounded away.

The carrier is trout-only, as well. It looked as though it was going to be early-season water with only the upper part holding fish when the river had dropped. I hoped that summer would prove me wrong, which would suit me fine. The fishing was going be upstream fly only, which suited me ditto.

To the mill. Another eventful walk, now through fine rain and a rising breeze. Snowdrops were out under an ageing oak. A heap of matted feathers told of disaster for something and triumph for something else: nature as red as ever in tooth and beak. A formation of ducks flighted downwind, like an arrowhead homing. A line of young willows marked a short reach of bank, their shoots so red that they made each tree glow. Close-up in the rain, every twig was threaded with half-moons of cut light.

The mill looked great and the mill-pools awesome. In one direction there were swims that looked made for barbel. In the other, sitting like a garden gnome under a green umbrella, an old hand was leaning back in his chair, watching his float.

He had fished this river for 40 years. It was good but not what it used to be. Dredging to reduce the flooding had ruined the bottom and now there weren't enough waterfleas to feed the little fish. Fewer little fish meant fewer big fish, he explained — but if I put in the hours I would get the results, he could promise me that. Definitely.

I took a look at the big bends upstream — at the Log Swim, at Blue Bridge Pool and at somewhere else — then paused under an ancient tree to look around. There was a brush of wings and a great bird suddenly broke cover above my head and wafted noiselessly away. What a treat: a barn owl so close that I could have touched it with a rod-end. I had a wonderful view of it, saw its dished eyes clearly, saw clearly the pale honey of its back before the bird showed its belly and instantly turned white.

I watched the owl out of sight then turned back to the car. I did not hurry. By the time I was into it and scrunching down the track, I was as relaxed and mellow as any day has left me. It had been a full day's fishing — almost — even without the rod. *Piscator non solum piscatur*. Just being near a river can be enough.

☐ *Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month*

BOXING

Dunne's talents shown on Holiday

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

COLIN DUNNE made new friends as he was finally given the exposure on television to prove his worth. The four million viewers who watched him on ITV on Saturday night cannot have failed to see what a crowd-pleaser the World Boxing Union lightweight champion is. Dunne took on Phillip Holiday, of South Africa, who many thought to be well above his class — and beat him out of sight.

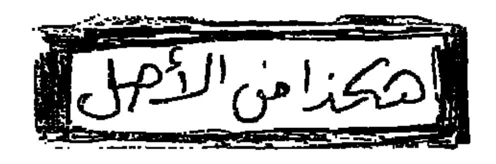
Holiday was only able to impose his much-vaunted technical superiority in short bursts and had to keep moving forward in the hope of wiping out the points deficit. As a result, the bout moved to an exciting conclusion with the crowd on its feet as Holiday tried to find a big punch and Dunne refused to give way.

After receiving a cut just below his hairline in the fifth round, Holiday seemed to lose his earlier sharpness and concentration as blood poured steadily down his face. The ring doctor said that the flow of blood was not getting in his eyes and so it would not have been proper to stop the contest. Dunne took full advantage.

The aim of Dunne's manager, Terry Toole, is to now get his boxer a contest that will make some money. John Hyland, the promoter, was hoping to make a match with Billy Schwer, the European champion. However, Mickey Duff, Schwer's manager, said that, as Schwer had a chance to challenge for the WBC title, Dunne would have to wait.

Referring to the gash Holiday sustained, and no doubt the fact that Schwer tends to cut easily, Duff parried Hyland's offer. "Dunne is dangerous with his head," he said. "With the world title fight in the offing for Schwer, it would be an unnecessary fight to take."

Oldham death, page 5



FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei: World Grand Prix finals: Men: Singles: Semi-finals: P G Christensen (Den) wo Ong Ewe Hock (Malaysia); Sun Jun (China) bt Y Hock Kin (Malaysia) 15-12, 17-15. **Final:** Sun Jun bt Christensen 15-11, 15-8. **Doubles: Final:** D Kantono and B Arianto (Indo) bt T Gunawan and H Halim (Indo) 15-11, 5-15, 15-11. **Women: Singles: Semi-finals:** Dai Yun (China) bt Gong Zhichao (China) 11-0, 11-6; Zhang Ning (China) bt Ye Zhaoying (China) 11-5, 9-11, 11-8. **Final:** Zhang Ning bt Dai Yun 11-8, 11-7. **Doubles: Final:** Ge Fei and Gu Jun (China) wo Thomsen and Olsen (Den). **Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:** K Dong-moon and R Kyung-min (S Kor) bt T Heryanto and M Timur (Indo) 15-7, 15-4; S Archer and J Goode (Eng) bt M Sogaard and R Olsen (Den) 15-9, 13-15, 15-11. **Final:** Dong-moon and Kyung-min bt Archer and Goode 15-6, 15-9.

BOWLS

EXETER: EWIBA indoor championships: Unbadged pairs: Semi-finals: C Anderson and L Ryan (Prince Arthur) bt A Redhead and S Chilton (York) 24-21; P Peachey and M Reeve (Bentham) bt J Noyes and J Gasson (Wealden) 25-13. **Final:** Anderson and Ryan bt Peachey and Reeve 22-20. **Under-31 singles: Quarter-finals:** K Hawes (Chunwell) bt H Dabbs (Melton and District) 21-16; D Talbot (Barnsley Metrodome) bt L Whitehead (Acle) 21-3; S Seymour (City of Ely) bt S Rayson (Desborough Northants) 21-14; C Ashby (Eastbourne) bt H Stapleton (Melton and District) 21-20. **Semi-finals:** Talbot bt Hawes 21-13, Ashby bt Seymour 21-15.

BOXING

BETHNAL GREEN: WBU lightweight title: C Dunne (Holloway and Liverpool, holder) bt P Holiday (SA) pts. **WBU light-flyweight title:** H Makepula (SA, holder) bt L Trejo (Mex) pts.

OLDHAM SPORTS CENTRE: Commonwealth middleweight title: J Matthews (Hackney) bt P Jones (Sheffield, holder) disq 7th. **Central Area featherweight championship:** M Gomez (Manchester) bt C Jickells (Brigg) rsc 5th

BERLIN: IBF super-middleweight title: S Ottke (Ger) bt G Nardiello (It) 3rd. **European cruiserweight title:** A Iin (Russ) bt C Girard (Fr) rsc 10

CRICKET

Asian Test championship

Sri Lanka v India

COLOMBO (final day of five): Sri Lanka drew with India

INDIA: First Innings 518 for 7 dec (S Ramesh 143, R Dravid 107, M Azharuddin 87, S C Ganguly 56, S R Tendulkar 53)

Second Innings

S Ramesh c Tillekeratne b Upashantha	30
V V S Laxman lbw b Upashantha	25
S C Ganguly st Kaluwitharana b de Silva	78
S R Tendulkar not out	124
*M Azharuddin c Arnold b de Silva	15
A Kumble c Vaas b Arnold	10
B K V Prasad not out	9
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 2, nb 9)	15
Total (5 wkts)	306

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-74, 3-214, 4-233, 5-283

BOWLING: Vaas 16-3-58-0; Perera 14-2-60-0; Upashantha 15-2-41-2; Arnold 23-4-54-1; de Silva 18-2-59-2; Jayawardene 1-0-11-0; Tillekeratne 1-1-0-0

SRI LANKA: First Innings

M S Atapattu lbw b Nehra	6
R P Arnold run out	1
D P M D Jayawardene c and b Kumble	242
U C Hathurusinghe lbw b Prasad	14
P A de Silva b Singh	23
*A Ranatunga c sub b Kumble	16
H P Tillekeratne st Mongia b Singh	14
†R S Kaluwitharana b Singh	22
W P U C J Vaas c Laxman b Kumble	6
K E A Upashantha lbw b Kumble	6
R L Perera not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 19, w 4, nb 9)	33
Total	485

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-83, 3-129, 4-178, 5-354, 6-390, 7-466, 8-468, 9-484

BOWLING: Prasad 31-6-94-1; Nehra 28-5-94-1; Kumble 54.1-10-134-4; Singh 40-9-127-3; Tendulkar 5-0-16-0; Ganguly 1-1-0-0

Umpires: R E Koertzen (South Africa) and R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe)

First Test match

New Zealand v South Africa

AUCKLAND (second day of five, New Zealand won toss): South Africa have scored 562 for five wickets against New Zealand

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten c Astle b Allott	128
H H Gibbs b Vettori	34
J H Kallis lbw b Doull	7
D J Cullinan not out	246
*W J Cronje c Allott b Harris	30
J N Rhodes c Twose b Harris	63
S M Pollock not out	39
Extras (b 4, lb 9, nb 2)	15
Total (5 wkts)	562

L Klusener, †M V Boucher, A A Donald and P R Adams to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-97, 3-280, 4-354, 5-495

BOWLING: Doull 28-8-65-1; Allott [illegible]; Nash 28-2-97-0; Vettori [illegible]; Harris 43-9-85-2; McMillan [illegible]; Astle 9-1-30-0

NEW ZEALAND: M J Horne, M D Bell, R G Twose, C D McMillan, N J Astle, C Z Harris, †A C Parore, *D J Nash, D L Vettori, S B Doull, G I Allott

Umpires: R S Dunne and D J Harper

Tour match

Gauteng v England A

WANDERERS (final day of four): England A beat Gauteng by ten wickets

ENGLAND A: First Innings 447-9 dec (A Flintoff 145, *M P Vaughan 76, D L Maddy 73)

Second Innings

D L Maddy not out	1
G P Swann not out	16
Extras (b 5, lb 4, w 1)	10
Total (no wkts)	27

BOWLING: Bacher 1.3-0-6-0; Kidwell 1-0-12-0

GAUTENG: First Innings

S G Koenig lbw b Cosker	49
*A M Bacher b Swann	13
A J Seymore b Thomas	21
D N Crookes b Thomas	36
Z de Bruyn c Maddy b Cosker	62
G Toyana run out	10
†N Pothas c Key b Swann	37
R E Veenstra b Swann	30
G Bodi lbw b Swann	2
E W Kidwell b Swann	0
W B Masimula not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 5)	12
Total	262

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-91, 3-91, 4-155, 5-194, 6-208, 7-260, 8-261, 9-261

BOWLING: Thomas 22-4-48-2; Franks 15-4-35-0; Swann 26.5-6-77-5; Cosker 26-8-63-2; Flintoff 9-1-21-0; Maddy 6-2-11-0

Second Innings

S G Koenig lbw b Thomas	0
*A M Bacher c Maddy b Cosker	64
A J Seymore b Cosker	74
D N Crookes c Key b Cosker	12
Z de Bruyn lbw b Swann	3
G Toyana c Read b Thomas	6
† N Pothas lbw b Thomas	1
R E Veenstra c Maddy b Cosker	0
E W Kidwell c Read b Swann	17
G Bodi c Read b Cosker	19
W B Masimula not out	0
Extras (b 3, lb 9, w 2, nb 1)	15
Total	211

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-140, 3-156, 4-165, 5-169, 6-170, 7-171, 8-177, 9-199

BOWLING: Thomas 18-9-48-3; Flintoff 15-6-24-0; Maddy 3-0-8-0; Franks 4-0-11-0; Swann 16-3-33-2; Cosker 25.3-6-57-5; Vaughan 7-0-18-0

Umpires: S B Lambson and C School

One-day international

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

HAMILTON (England Under-19 won toss): New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by 84 runs

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19

T McIntosh c Bulbeck b Haywood	52
B Patton c Logan b Bulbeck	17
*J Englefield run out	18
J McNamee st Wallace b Haywood	10
M Papps not out	60
J Franklin run out	19
† P McGlashan b Symington	25
B Martin b Logan	1
W McSkimming not out	22
Extras (lb 1, w 4, nb 2)	7
Total (7 wkts, 45 overs)	231

M Gillespie and H Shaw did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-86, 3-101, 4-102, 5-146, 6-192, 7-198

BOWLING: Bulbeck 9-0-42-1; Logan 9-0-50-1; Haywood 9-0-36-2; Bridge 9-1-34-0; Dawson 4-0-29-0; Symington 5-0-39-1

ENGLAND UNDER-19

*M A Gough st McGlashan b Martin	19
I N Flanagan b Gillespie	1
R J Logan b Gillespie	0
I R Bell b Martin	19
M A Carberry run out	61
M P Bulbeck c McGlashan b Franklin	12
G R Haywood c McGlashan b Franklin	8
R K J Dawson c Martin b McSkimming	1
M J Symington run out	1
G Bridge run out	1
† M A Wallace not out	9
Extras (lb 1, w 3)	4
Total (33.3 overs)	136

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-8, 3-38, 4-42, 5-73, 6-98, 7-99, 8-101, 9-109

BOWLING: Gillespie 6-1-22-2; Shaw 6-0-15-0; Martin 7-1-32-2; McSkimming 9-1-27-1; Franklin 6.3-0-39-2

Umpires: A Hill and M MacLean

TOUR MATCH: Port of Spain (first day of four): West Indies President's XI 177 (D Joseph 64, S McGill 6-45), Australians 73-1

CYCLING

ROAD RACING: Farnham wheelers (Meonstoke, Hampshire, 58 miles): 1, J Bayfield (Harrods) 2hr 26min; 2, G Bayton (Amorea Vita); 3, M Rogers (Amorea Vita) both same time. **TIME TRIALS: North Road CC Hardriders** (Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, 28 miles): 1, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 1:05:25; 2, J Ramsbottom (Harrods RT) 1:05:49; 3, R Prebble (Team Clean) 1:06:12

GOLF

TUSCON OPEN: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **206:** T Armour 70, 69, 67; B Cheesman 71, 66, 69. **207:** M Wier 68, 72, 67; T Tolles 66, 70, 71. **208:** B Geiberger 72, 68, 68; G Waite (NZ) 70, 69, 69; K Triplett 69, 69, 70; D Toms 68, 69, 71; K Perry 69, 68, 71; J Kelly 66, 70, 72; G Hjertstedt (Swe) 67, 68, 73. **Other scores: 210:** J Daly 69, 70, 71. **212:** A Lyle (GB) 68, 70, 74.

GOLD COAST: LPGA Australian Masters: Leading final scores: 282: K Webb (Aus) 63, 67, 64, 68. **272:** J Moodie (Scot) 67, 67, 67, 71. **274:** B Iverson (US) 69, 68, 71, 66. **276:** L Kane (Can) 68, 67, 71, 69. **277:** J Crafter (Aus) 68, 66, 70, 73. **Other scores: 279:** A Nicholas (Eng) 68, 70, 64, 77. **282:** H Dobson (Eng) 72, 69, 70, 71. **285:** C Matthew (Scot) 70, 71, 69, 75. **286:** J Morley (Eng) 68, 72, 72, 74. **287:** L Davies (Eng) 71, 72, 71, 73.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Bracknell Bees 5 Cardiff Devils 4, Sheffield Steelers 5 Newcastle Riverkings 1, Nottingham Panthers 5 Ayr Scottish Eagles 2

	P	W	L	D	OL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	39	29	6	1	3	144	78	62
Cardiff	39	25	10	0	4	136	96	54
Nottingham	40	24	13	1	2	134	127	51
Bracknell	39	17	16	2	4	132	139	40
Sheffield	39	17	17	3	2	130	128	39
Ayr	38	16	17	3	2	122	127	37
Newcastle	38	11	23	2	2	101	140	26
London	38	9	23	2	4	104	168	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Tampa Bay 4 Philadelphia 1, Detroit 5 Florida 5, New York Rangers 3 Phoenix 0, Chicago 1 Los Angeles 2, Dallas 6 Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 2 St Louis 4, Edmonton 6 Buffalo 3, Vancouver 1 Carolina 0, Anaheim 3 San Jose 1. **Saturday:** Boston 4 Washington 3, Montreal 4 Ottawa 1, New York Islanders 3 Detroit 1, Toronto 4 Florida 1, Colorado 3 Nashville 1, Edmonton 2 Carolina 2, San Jose 1 Anaheim 4

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Ottawa	33	18	8	170	128	74
Toronto	34	21	5	194	176	73
Buffalo	27	20	12	161	132	66
Boston	25	24	10	154	140	60
Montreal	24	29	8	144	158	56
Atlantic division						
Philadelphia	30	16	13	182	131	73
New Jersey	32	20	8	177	153	72
Pittsburgh	32	19	7	184	159	71
NY Rangers	24	28	7	163	165	55
NY Islanders	19	35	7	143	183	45
Southeast division						
Carolina	27	23	12	160	154	66
Florida	22	22	16	153	159	60
Washington	24	30	5	149	156	53
Tampa Bay	13	41	5	123	211	31

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	31	25	6	183	158	68
ST Louis	24	24	10	162	150	58
Nashville	21	33	6	141	193	48
Chicago	17	36	8	135	193	42
Northwest division						
Colorado	30	22	8	163	147	68
Edmonton	23	28	9	164	156	55
Calgary	21	29	10	155	174	52
Vancouver	19	32	9	148	187	47
Pacific division						
Dallas	37	11	9	170	116	83
Phoenix	30	19	10	148	132	70
Anaheim	27	25	9	164	150	63
San Jose	20	27	14	136	144	54
Los Angeles	23	32	5	140	161	51

MOTOR RALLYING

KENYA: Safari Rally: Final positions: 1, C McRae (GB, Ford) 8hr 41min 39 1sec; 2, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) at 14min 26.2sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota) 18:07.2. **Disqualified:** T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi). **World championship standings:** 1, Makinen 20pts; 2, Auriol 13; equal 3, McRae and Sainz 10

ROWING

SEVILLE: FISA Team Cup: British medal winners: Saturday (1,000m) **Gold: Men: Coxless pairs:** R Thatcher and S Trapmore (3min 19sec). **Coxless fours:** J Cracknell, S Redgrave, E Cooke and M Pinsent (2.59). **Lightweight fours:** J Brown, J McNiven, D Lemon and J Warnock (3:00). **Lightweight sculls:** T Male (3:38). **Women: Pairs:** C Bishop and D Blackie (3.41). **Lightweight doubles:** J Nitsch and T Langlands (3:41). **Lightweight singles:** Langlands (4:03). **Silver: Men: Eights** (2:49). **Bronze: Men: Singles:** S Goodbrand (3.42). **Women: Singles:** S Winckless (3:57). **Yesterday** (500m): **Gold: Men: Coxless fours** (as Saturday, 1.29). **Coxless pairs:** J Cracknell and S Redgrave (1.41). **Eights** (1.27). **Lightweight sculls** (as Saturday, 1.48). **Lightweight fours** (as Saturday, no time). **Women: Pairs** (as Saturday, 1.52). **Silver: Men: Lightweight sculls** (as Saturday, 2.10). **Bronze: Women: Lightweight doubles** (as Saturday, 2:03). **Leading overall team positions:** 1, Great Britain 208pts; 2, Spain 141; 3, Holland 111.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fifth round

Huddersfield 14 Salford 22

Huddersfield: Tries: Arnold, Lenihan. **Goals:** Goulding 3. **Salford: Tries:** Casey 2, Crompton, Martin. **Goals:** Blakeley 3. **Att:** 4,992

Hull KR 0 London 6

Try: Offiah. **Goal:** Smyth. **Att:** 3,300

Leeds 24 St Helens 16

Leeds: Tries: Newton, Sheridan. **Goals:** Harris 8. **St Helens: Tries:** Atcheson, Newlove. **Goals:** Long 4. **Att:** 14,150

Wakefield 8 Bradford 26

Wakefield: Try: Kenward. **Goals:** Hodgson 2. **Bradford: Tries:** Fielden, Lowes, McNamara, H Paul. **Goals:** Deacon 3, McNamara 2. **Att:** 7,386.

Warrington 34 Halifax 4

Warrington: Tries: Forster, Hunte, Kohe-Love, Penny, Roper. **Goals:** Briers 7. **Halifax: Goals:** Holroyd 2. **Att:** 5,102.

Whitehaven 18 Oldham 2

Whitehaven: Tries: Seeds 2, Lewthwaite. **Goals:** Hetherington 2, Kitchin. **Oldham: Goal:** Brown. **Att:** 1,438

Widnes 20 Leigh 17

Widnes: Tries: Argent, Briers, Cantillon, Cassidy. **Goals:** Hewitt, Salisbury. **Leigh: Tries:** Bowker, Burrows, Murray. **Goals:** Kendrick 2. **Dropped goal:** Kendrick. **Att:** 4,054

Northern Ford Premiership

Rochdale 26 Doncaster 10

Rochdale: Tries: Hall, Hudson, Knowles, Swann. **Goals:** Fox 4, Fitzgerald. **Doncaster: Tries:** Moore, Watson. **Goal:** Crosser.

SWIMMING

GELSENKIRCHEN: World Cup short-course event: Winners: Men: Freestyle: 50m: A Ludenz (Ger) 22.17. **100m:** S Ashikmin (Russ) 49.12. **200m:** P van den Hoogenband (Holl) 1:44.96. **British placing:** 6, A Clayton 1:46.76. **400m:** J Hoffmann (Ger) 3:43.68. **Backstroke: 50m:** Rupprath 24.22. **100m:** T Rupprath (Ger) 53.43. **British placing:** 6, N Willey 55.31. **Breaststroke: 50m:** M Warneke (Ger) 27.59. **100m:** F Doburghgraave (Bel) 1:00.14. **Butterfly: 50m:** M Foster (GB) 23.82. **100m:** D Silantiev (Ukr) 52.19. **200m:** Silantiev 1:55.59. **Medley: 100m:** C Keller (Ger) 55.47. **200m:** Keller 1:58.46. **British placing:** 4, B Lummis 2:01.76. **Women: Freestyle: 50m:** S Rolph (GB) 25.06. **100m:** Rolph 54.33. **200m:** F van Almsick (Ger) 1:58.31. **British placing:** 4, N Jackson 1:59.13. **800m:** F Vleghuis (Holl) 8:33.63. **British placing:** 4, R Cooke 8:36.89. **Backstroke: 50m:** S Völker (Ger) 28.06. **100m:** A Buschschulte (Ger) 1:00.02. **200m:** Buschschulte 2:09.04. **Breaststroke: 50m:** A Kovacs (Hun) 31.48. **100m:** Kovacs 1:07.47. **200m:** Kovacs 2:24.54. **Butterfly: 50m:** K Jake (Ger) 27.61. **100m:** J Onishi (Japan) 59.78. **200m:** Onishi 2:08.84. **Medley: 100m:** Y Klochkova (Ukr) 1:02.80. **200m:** Klochkova 2:12.31

TENNIS

BATTERSEA: Guardian Direct Cup: Singles: Semi-finals: G Rusedski (GB) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-3; R Krajicek (Holl) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-2, 6-4. **Final:** Krajicek bt Rusedski 7-6, 6-7, 7-5. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** B Black (Zim) and W Ferreira (SA) bt J Eagle and A Florent (Aus) 7-5, 7-6; T Henman (GB) and Rusedski bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) and D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 6-4

PARIS INDOOR OPEN: Semi-finals: A Mauresmo (Fr) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-0, 7-6; S Williams (US) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-1, 6-4. **Final:** Williams bt Mauresmo 6-2, 3-6, 7-6

OKLAHOMA: Super Thrift Classic: Semi-finals: V Williams (US) bt L Osterloh (US) 6-2, 6-3; A Coetzer (SA) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-4, 6-2

ANDREW PARSONS

Donna Kennedy, of Scotland, and Teresa Andrews, of England, contest a lineout in the women's rugby union international at Richmond. England won 34-7. Report, page 34

ATHLETICS

Track and field

SINDELFINGEN, Germany: IAAF meeting: Winners: Men: 60m: T Montgomery (US) 6.56sec. **800m:** K Kimwetich (Ken) 1min 48.11sec. **60m hurdles:** M Fenner (Ger) 7.51. **Women: 200m:** B Rockmeier (Ger) 23.28. **60m hurdles:** G Alozie (Nigeria) 7.94. **800m:** L Mikhailova (Russ) 2:00.87. **Pole vault:** T Eisdottir (Ice) 4.36m. **Long jump:** T Ter-Meroban (Russ) 6.56m

NOGENT-SUR-OISE, Paris: Great Britain v France v Germany v Italy junior indoor international: Winners: Men: 60m: M Lewis-Francis (GB) 6.69. **400m:** O Monilord (Fr) 48.46. **Long jump:** L Djhone (Fr) 7.57m. **Shot:** S-E Hahn (Ger) 16.28m. **5km walk:** V Sina (It) 21.23.16. **Women: 60m: Final:** R Rouek (Fr) 7.67. **200m:** S Wilhelmy (GB) 24.00. **400m:** A Oberstolz (It) 55.19. **High jump:** G Niare (Fr) 1.84m. **Pole vault:** Y Buschbaum (Ger) 4.25m. **Triple jump:** M Bianchin (It) 12.71m. **3km walk:** E Rigaudo (It) 13:53.28

CRYSTAL PALACE: Kent indoor championships: Men: 60m: J Paul (Shaftesbury Barnet) 6.9sec. **Pole vault:** K Gray (Ashford) 4m (championship record). **Long jump:** A Hall (Cambridge Harriers) 6.68m. **Women: 60m:** K Porter (Blackheath) 8.0sec. **Pole vault:** M Newton (Ashford) 3m. **Long jump:** J Jenner (Tonbridge) 5.16m.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Surrey indoor championships: Men: 60m: J Wood (Herne Hill) 6.9sec. **60m hurdles:** A David (Woodford Green) 8.5. **Pole vault:** R Hull (Herne Hill) 3m. **Women: 60m:** S Wilkins (Walton) 7.7sec. **60m hurdles:** S Porter (Sutton) 8.9. **Pole vault:** K Wnuk (Croydon) 2.70m. **Long jump:** N Brant (Epsom and Ewell) 5.44m

Cross country

NAIROBI: IAAF World Cross Challenge: Men (12km): 1, P Koech (Ken) 36min 35sec; 2, P Tergat (Ken) 36.43; 3, B Barmasai (Ken) 36.47; 4, T Nyariki (Ken) 36:48; 5, R Evans (Ken) 36.49; 6, P Ivuti (Ken) 37:00. **Leading standings:** 1, Koech 88pts; 2, Nyariki 81; 3, M Mourhit (Bel) 57; 4, Tergat 47; 5, J Kiptoo (Ken) 39; 6, H Mekonen (Eth) 35. **British placing:** 14, J Brown (Sheffield) 19. **Women** (8km): 1, A Kiprop (Ken) 27min 48sec; 2, J Omoro (Ken) 28.17; 3, J Ngotho (Ken) 28.25; 4, N Mugo (Ken) 28:37; 5, R Chepkoech (Ken) 28:43; 6, J Ekimat (Ken) 28.54. **Leading standings:** 1, G Wami (Eth) 94pts; 2, A Sandell (Fin) 69; 3, J Maranga (Ken) 67; 4, Z Ouaziz (Mor) 50; 5, N Rocha (Mex) 48; 6, L Malot (Ken) 44. **British:** 9, P Radcliffe (Bedford) 34

BANGOR: Northern Ireland championships: Veteran (3 miles): 1, R Curran (Ballymena Runners) 17min 35sec; 2, W Mitchell (Albertville) 17.39; 3, N Cahoon (Albertville) 17.48. **Teams:** 1, North Belfast 29pts; 2, Albertville 44; 3, Willowfield 46. **Junior men** (6 miles): 1, A McCullough (North Belfast) 35.33; 2, N Lyle (Royal Ulster Constabulary) 35.57; 3, J Davey (Willowfield) 36.11. **Teams:** 1, North Belfast 75; 2, Willowfield 102; 3, Lagan Valley 114. **Junior women** (2.5 miles): 1, J Shannon (Lagan Valley) 17:17; 2, C McDonald (Lagan Valley) 18:03; 3, S-J Gurney (Albertville) 18.18. **Teams:** Lagan Valley 12. **Under-13 boys** (1 mile): 1, A Davidson (Albertville) 6.04; 2, P Lynas (Craignavon) 6.20; 3, D O Doherty (St Columb's School) 6.24. **Teams:** 1, Lagan Valley 50; 2, Coleraine Institute 80; 3, Sparta 81. **Under-13 girls** (1 mile): 1, C Robb (Craignavon) 6.38; 2, L Freel (Lagan Valley) 6.45; 3, C Gurney (Lagan Valley) 6.55. **Teams:** 1, Lagan Valley 20; 2, Albertville 36; 3, Sparta 42.

COULSDON: Men's Surrey Cross Country League (5 miles) **First division:** 1, S Haughian (Hounslow) 27min 27sec; 2, M Simpson (Hounslow) 28:09; 3, D Taylor (Herne Hill) 28.24; 4, W Oxborough (Thames Hare and Hounds) 28.51; 5, J van Wyk (Hercules Wimbledon) 29.03; 6, D Naylor (Thames Hare and Hounds) 29.14. **Teams:** 1, Thames Hare and Hounds 194pts; 2, Herne Hill 258; 3, South London Harriers 371. **Veteran:** H Jones (Ranelagh) 30.31. **Over-50:** C Dickinson (Belgrave) 32.45. **Final standings:** 1, Thames Hare and Hounds 1,043; 2, Herne Hill 1,612; 3, Belgrave 1,635. **Individual champion:** S Major (South London Harriers) 25

LLOYD PARK, Croydon: Women's Surrey League (6.5km) **First division:** 1, A Wood (South London Harriers) 20min 54sec; 2, M Clark (Thames Hare and Hounds) 21.20; 3, C McKinlay-Evans (South London Harriers) 21.26. **Teams:** 1, South London Harriers 51pts; 2, Herne Hill 53; 3, Thames Hare and Hounds 79. **Veteran over-45:** M Clarke (Herne Hill) 21.32. **Final standings:** 1, South London Harriers 38; 2, Herne Hill 35; 3, Thames Hare and Hounds 30. **Second division:** 1, E Viljoen (Hercules Wimbledon) 21.38; 2, S Blackett (Dulwich Park Runners) 21.47; 3, C May (Guildford and Godalming) 22.03. **Teams:** 1, Belgrave 57; 2, Stragglers 93; 3, Dulwich Park Runners 115. **Veteran:** M Statham (Holland Sports) 22.45. **Final standings:** 1, Belgrave 66; 2, Stragglers 61; 3, Dulwich Park Runners 59. **Promoted to first division:** Belgrave and Stragglers.

CRAWLEY: Sussex League: Men (5 miles): 1, P Davoren (Brighton and Hove) 26min 33sec; 2, P Stacey (Brighton and Hove) 26.50; 3, T Sargant (Hailsham Harriers) 26.58. **Teams:** 1, Brighton and Hove 50pts; 2, Crawley 84; 3, Hailsham Harriers 165. **Veteran:** P Wilcomb (Brighton and Hove) 28.09. **Final standings:** 1, Brighton and Hove 344; 2, Crawley 409; 3, Chichester Runners 656. **Individual:** 1, A Robinson (Horsham Blue Star) 3; 2, Stacey 9; 3, A McDermott (Crawley) 15. **Women** (3 miles): 1, W Holden (Lewes) 26.12; 2, R Adams (Horsham Blue Star) 27.11; 3, J Hardwick (Hastings Runners) 27.29. **Teams:** 1, Arena 80 35; 2, Brighton and Hove 42; 3, Hailsham Harriers 67. **Final standings:** 1, Arena 80 118; 2, Brighton and Hove 218; 3, Hailsham Harriers 268.5. **Individual:** 1, Holden 4; 2, Adams 9; 3, T Owen (Arena 80) 12.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final group C: Israel 79 (Kalash 25, Scheffler 14, Goodes 12) England 76 (Bucknall 27, Hansell 14, Haslam 8, Huggins 8), Ukraine 79 Belarus 67, Denmark 63 Spain 80

	P	W	L	Pts
Spain	10	10	0	20
Israel	10	7	3	17
Ukraine	10	5	5	15
England	10	4	6	14
Belarus	10	3	7	13
Denmark	10	1	9	11

DAIRYLEA DUNKERS ALL-STAR GAME: North 156 South 158

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL): Men: First division: Cardiff C 102 Solihull 94, Coventry 95 Guildford 107, Oxford 80 Mid Sussex 84, Westminster 68 London T 91

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBA): Friday: Toronto 102 Minnesota 92, Charlotte 97 Portland 95, Orlando 103 Indiana 100 (OT), Boston 94 New York 80, Detroit 95 Miami 93, Denver 96 Milwaukee 95, Utah 80 Dallas 65, Seattle 92 San Antonio 82, Golden State 94 Phoenix 90, LA Lakers 89 LA Clippers 83. **Saturday:** Vancouver 74 Houston 86, Washington 81 Portland 82, New Jersey 92 Boston 101, Dallas 97 Sacramento 90, Chicago 94 Charlotte 77, LA Clippers 74 Atlanta 103

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	10	3	769	—
Miami	8	4	667	1½
New York	8	4	667	1½
Philadelphia	7	5	583	2½
Boston	6	5	545	3
Washington	4	7	364	5
New Jersey	2	10	167	7½
Central division				
Indiana	9	4	.692	—
Atlanta	8	5	615	1
Milwaukee	6	4	600	1½
Detroit	7	6	538	2
Cleveland	5	6	.455	3
Toronto	4	7	.364	4
Chicago	3	10	231	6
Charlotte	2	9	.182	6

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	10	2	.833	—
Minnesota	8	4	.667	2
Houston	8	5	615	2½
San Antonio	6	7	462	4½
Dallas	5	10	.333	6½
Vancouver	4	8	333	6
Denver	4	9	.308	6½
Pacific division				
Portland	8	3	727	—
Seattle	8	4	667	½
Phoenix	7	5	583	1½
LA Lakers	8	6	.571	1½
Golden State	6	6	500	2½
Sacramento	6	7	462	3
LA Clippers	0	12	000	8½

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Leicester v Leeds (8.0)

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Fourth round

Clydebank v Dundee Utd

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth-round replay: Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Easington, Newcastle Blue Star v Morpeth Town.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Atlético Madrid v AS Roma (8.30), Bologna v Lyons (4.30); Bordeaux v Parma (6.30), Marseilles v Celta Vigo (8.15)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham v Southampton (7.45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Norwich (7.45); Bury v Wolverhampton (7.45); Crewe v Bristol City (7.45), Huddersfield v Bolton (7.45), Ipswich v Watford (7.45), Port Vale v Grimsby (7.45), Sheffield Utd v Crystal Palace (7.45); Sunderland v Portsmouth (7.45); West Bromwich v Stockport (7.45). **Second division:** Bournemouth v Fulham (7.45); Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (7.45), Chesterfield v Millwall (7.45); Macclesfield v Stoke (7.45), Northampton v Wrexham (7.30). **Third division:** Darlington v Exeter (7.45), Leyton Orient v Torquay (7.45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section, semi-final: Rochdale v Wigan (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Ross County v East Stirling (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Manchester Storm (7.0)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Bayern Munich v Kaiserslautern (7.45); Juventus v Olympiakos (7.45), Manchester Utd v Internazionale (7.45), Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev (7.45)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday v Wimbledon (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Bradford (7.45); QPR v Oxford Utd (7.45); Swindon v Tranmere (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Leicester Riders (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Riverkings (7.30)

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Chelsea v Valerenga (7.45), Lokomotiv Moscow v Maccabi Haifa (5.0), Panionios v Lazio (7.45); Varteks v Real Mallorca (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Cardiff Devils (7.0), Newcastle Riverkings v Bracknell Bees (7.15); Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (7.0)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Cardiff v Chester (7.30)

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: France v Wales; Ireland v England, Scotland v Italy (at Galashiels, 7.0)

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: France v Wales; Ireland v England; Scotland v Italy (at Glasgow, 6.30)

CLUB MATCH: Worcester v Coventry (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Wigan v Hull (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Milton Keynes Lions v Worthing Bears (7.30); Newcastle Eagles v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers (7.30)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CUP: Sixth round: Arsenal v Derby; Barnsley v Tottenham

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry v Charlton, Southampton v West Ham, Wimbledon v Leicester

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Portsmouth; Bury v Crystal Palace, Crewe v Grimsby; Huddersfield v Stockport, Ipswich v Tranmere, Port Vale v Bradford, Queens Park Rangers v Wolverhampton, Sheffield Utd v Watford; Sunderland v Norwich; Swindon v Bolton, West Bromwich v Oxford Utd. **Second division:** Blackpool v Stoke (12.0); Bristol Rovers v York; Fulham v Lincoln, Gillingham v Preston, Manchester City v Northampton; Millwall v Notts County, Oldham v Bournemouth, Reading v Macclesfield; Walsall v Luton, Wigan v Burnley; Wrexham v Chesterfield; Wycombe v Colchester. **Third division:** Carlisle v Shrewsbury; Darlington v Brentford, Exeter v Cambridge Utd, Hull v Mansfield; Leyton Orient v Rochdale; Peterborough v Hartlepool, Rotherham v Barnet, Scarborough v Plymouth, Scunthorpe v Brighton; Southend v Swansea, Torquay v Halifax

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Barrow v Cheltenham, Dover v Forest Green, Farnborough v Welling, Hayes v Rushden and Diamonds; Hereford v Telford; Kidderminster v Hednesford, Kingstonian v Morecambe; Leek v Yeovil, Northwich v Kettering, Southport v Stevenage; Woking v Doncaster

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fifth round: Ayr v Clydebank or Dundee Utd; Motherwell v St Johnstone.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Kilmarnock v Dunfermline

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Alloa v Partick, Arbroath v Inverness CT, Clyde v Forfar; East Fife v Livingston, Queen of South v Stirling. **Third division:** Albion v Montrose, Brechin v Cowdenbeath, Dumbarton v East Stirling, Ross County v Berwick; Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park

RUGBY UNION

LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: France v Wales (at Stade de France, 2.0); Ireland v England (at Lansdowne Road, 4.0)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Italy (at Murrayfield, 2.30)

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Lydney v Nottingham (3.0), Newbury v Henley (3.0). **Second division north:** Hinckley v Aspatria (3.0). **Second division south:** Clifton v Barking (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Greater London Leopards v Sheffield Sharks (7.0); Leicester Riders v Chester Jets (7.30), London Towers v Derby Storm (7.30), Manchester Giants v Newcastle Eagles (7.10), Thames Valley Tigers v Milton Keynes Lions (8.0), Worthing Bears v Birmingham Bullets (8.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Sixth round: Manchester Utd v Chelsea (2.0); Newcastle v Everton (4.0).

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fifth round: Rangers v Falkirk (3.10)

RUGBY UNION

TENNENT'S VELVET CUP: Quarter-final: Gordonians v Hawick Linden (3.0).

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Currie v Jed-Forest (3.0), Stirling County v Hawick (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Sheffield, Castleford v Wakefield (3.30), Gateshead v Leeds (6.35), Halifax v Warrington, London v Huddersfield (3.30), Salford v St Helens

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Barrow v Featherstone; Batley v Hunslet; Hull KR v Oldham, Keighley v York, Lancashire Lynx v Dewsbury; Leigh v Whitehaven, Swinton v Bramley, Widnes v Rochdale; Workington v Doncaster

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v London Towers (6.0), Edinburgh Rocks v Greater London Leopards (5.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Newcastle Riverkings (6.0), Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0). **Challenge Cup: Semi-finals, second leg:** Manchester Storm (0) v Sheffield Steelers (5) (2.0), Nottingham Panthers (3) v Cardiff Devils (2) (2.0)

CAMBRIDGE LENT RACES

MEN: First division: LMBC bpd 1st and 3rd Trinity, Emmanuel bpd Churchill, Robinson bpd Magdalene, Clare bpd Pembroke, Selwyn bpd Queens', St Catharine's bpd Peterhouse. **Final positions:** 1, Caius; 2, LMBC; 3, 1st and 3rd Trinity; 4, Jesus; 5, Christ's; 6, Downing; 7, Emmanuel; 8, Churchill; 9, Trinity Hall; 10, Fitzwilliam; 11, Robinson; 12, Magdalene; 13, Clare; 14, Pembroke; 15, Selwyn; 16, Queens'; 17, St Catharine's. **Second division:** St Catharine's bpd Girton, King's bpd LMBC II, Caius II bpd Sidney Sussex; LMBC III bpd Corpus Christi; Churchill II bpd Queens' II, CCAT bpd Pembroke II. **Final positions:** 1, Peterhouse; 2, Girton; 3, King's; 4, LMBC II; 5, Caius II; 6, Sidney Sussex; 7, 1st and 3rd Trinity 2; 8, Downing II; 9, Christ's II; 10, Trinity Hall II; 11, LMBC III; 12, Corpus Christi; 13, Jesus II; 14, Churchill II; 15, Queens' II; 16, CCAT; 17, Pembroke II. **Third division:** Emmanuel II bpd St Catharine's II, Wolfson bpd Clare II, Selwyn II bpd Fitzwilliam II, Robinson II bpd Peterhouse II, 1st and 3rd Trinity III bpd Girton II, Darwin bpd Downing III, Corpus Christi III bpd Hughes Hall, Homerton bpd Queens' III. **Final positions:** 1, Emmanuel II; 2, St Catharine's II; 3, Wolfson; 4, Clare II; 5, Selwyn II; 6, Fitzwilliam II; 7, Robinson II; 8, Peterhouse II; 9, Magdalene II; 10, 1st and 3rd Trinity III; 11, Girton II; 12, Jesus III; 13, Darwin; 14, Downing III; 15, Corpus Christi II; 16, Hughes Hall; 17, Homerton. **Fourth division:** King's II bpd Sidney Sussex II, LMBC IV bpd Clare Hall, 1st and 3rd Trinity IV bpd Christ's III, St Catharine's III bpd Clare III, CCAT II bpd Trinity Hall III, Caius IV bpd St Edmund's, LMBC V bpd Robinson III. **Final positions:** 1, Queens' III; 2, King's II; 3, Sidney Sussex II; 4, LMBC IV; 5, Clare Hall; 6, Caius III; 7, 1st and 3rd Trinity IV; 8, Christ's III; 9, St Catharine's III; 10, Clare III; 11, CCAT II; 12, Trinity Hall III; 13, Churchill III; 14, Caius IV; 15, St Edmund's; 16, LMBC V; 17, Robinson III; 18, Jesus IV.

Women: First division: Caius bpd St Catharine's, Downing bpd New Hall, Fitzwilliam bpd Clare. **Final positions:** 1, Trinity Hall; 2, Emmanuel; 3, Pembroke; 4, Jesus; 5, Queens'; 6, Newnham; 7, Christ's; 8, LMBC; 9, Churchill; 10, 1st and 3rd Trinity; 11, Caius; 12, St Catharine's; 13, Downing; 14, New Hall; 15, Fitzwilliam; 16, Clare; 17, CCAT. **Second division:** Sidney Sussex bpd Girton, King's bpd LMBC II, Robinson bpd Corpus Christi, Darwin bpd Peterhouse, Queens' II bpd St Catharine's II. **Final positions:** 1, Selwyn; 2, Sidney Sussex; 3, Girton; 4, Magdalene; 5, Jesus II; 6, King's; 7, LMBC II; 8, Robinson; 9, Corpus Christi; 10, Emmanuel II; 11, Newnham II; 12, Wolfson; 13, Homerton; 14, Darwin; 15, Peterhouse; 16, Queens' II; 17, St Catharine's II. **Third division:** CCAT II bpd Clare Hall, Churchill II bpd Homerton II, The Vet School bpd Lucy Cavendish, Pembroke II bpd 1st and 3rd Trinity II, Clare II bpd Selwyn II, LMBC III bpd Downing II, Darwin II bpd Caius II. **Final positions:** 1, New Hall II; 2, Trinity Hall II; 3, CCAT II; 4, Clare Hall; 5, Churchill II; 6, Homerton II; 7, The Vet School; 8, Lucy Cavendish; 9, Pembroke II; 10, 1st and 3rd Trinity II; 11, Clare II; 12, Selwyn II; 13, LMBC III; 14, Downing II; 15, Darwin II; 16, Caius II; 17, Girton II; 18, Newnham III

HOCKEY

MEN'S EHA CUP: Sixth round: Cannock 4 Lewes 3, Old Loughtonians 3 Teddington 2; Reading 5 Canterbury 2; Southgate 8 Hounslow 3

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bournville 3 Southgate 5, Canterbury 3 Hounslow 3, Guildford 5 East Grinstead 3, Old Loughtonians 4 Brooklands 2; Reading 0 Cannock 2, Teddington 3 Beeston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	17	14	2	1	63	23	44
Southgate	17	13	0	4	50	40	39
Canterbury	17	11	3	3	69	42	36
Reading	17	9	4	4	50	33	31
Guildford	17	9	2	6	59	61	29
Beeston	17	7	4	6	38	35	25
Old L'tonians	17	8	1	8	56	57	25
Teddington	17	7	3	7	48	41	24
Bournville	17	4	4	9	33	55	16
Hounslow	17	3	4	10	32	52	13
East Grinstead	17	2	1	14	42	60	7
Brooklands	17	0	2	15	27	68	2

FIRST DIVISION: Saturday: Chelmsford 3 Eastcote 0, Doncaster 2 Hull 1, Hampstead 2 Harleston Magpies 3, Lewes 2 Oxford University 3, Loughborough Students 2 Sheffield 1, Oxford Hawks 3 Bromley 1; St Albans 1 Indian Gymkhana 2, Surbiton 5 Barford Tigers 0. **Yesterday:** Bromley 3 Hull 2, Havant 4 Stourport 3, Isca 2 Firebrands 1

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	16	13	1	2	69	22	40
Doncaster	16	12	3	1	56	19	39
Leeds	16	11	2	3	59	35	35
Havant	16	10	0	6	41	33	30
Chelmsford	16	9	2	5	47	35	29
Stourport	16	8	4	4	53	32	28
Barford Tigers	16	8	4	4	50	41	28

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Anchorians 1 Old Whitgiftians 2; Beckenham 0 Wimbledon 0, Bournemouth 2 Old Cranleighans 4; City of Portsmouth 5 Blackheath 3; Fareham 5 Chichester 4, Gore Court 1 Woking 4; Herne Bay 2 Wokingham 3; Maidenhead 3 Purley 4, Richmond 0 High Wycombe 0; Winchester 2 Tunbridge Wells 0. **Hampshire/Surrey:** Andover 1 Old Georgians 2; Basingstoke 4 Spencer 3; Blandford 0 Epsom 5; Fleet 3 Barnes 1; Goan 0 London Wayfarers 5; Haslemere 1 Oxshott 4; London University 1 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 0, Oxted 7 Portsmouth 2, Trojans 5 Camberley 1. **Kent/Sussex:** Ashford 2 Lloyds Bank 0, BBHC 2 Eastbourne 0, Bexley Invicta 4 Worthing 3, Brighton 1 South Saxons 0; Folkestone 3 Tulse Hill 0, Horsham 0 Old Holcombeians 0, Marden Russets 4 Mid Sussex 2; Middleton Bognor 4 Sevenoaks 2; Old Bordenians 3 Old Williamsonians 3, Rochester and Gillingham 4 Burnt Ash 2. **Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon:** Abingdon 0 Sonning 2, City of Oxford 2 Staines 4; Gerrards Cross 1 Richings Park 2; Hayes 0 Ashford 3, Hendon 1 Sunbury 1, Marlow 1 Old Kingstonians 1, Milton Keynes 1 Lions 2, Phoenix 1 PHC Chiswick 4, Ramgaria 0 Newbury 4, West Hampstead 5 Farnham Common 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowdon 4 Durham University 5, Chester 5 Southport 2, Norton 2 Formby 0, Rotherham 0 Ben Rhydding 2, Sheffield Bankers 1 Harrogate 0, Warrington 4 Neston 3. **North West:** Cheetham Hill 0 Oxton 0, Glaxo 0 Prescot 0, Liverpool University 3 Knutsford 1, Monsanto 5 Bolton 1, Sale 2 Chester 2, Sandbach 1 Colwyn Bay 2

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Edgbaston 5 N Notts 1, Hampton-in-Arden 3 Leek 3, Harborne 1 N Stafford 0; Khalsa 1 Northampton 2; Olton and West Warwick 0 Nottingham 1; Shrewsbury 2 Coventry and N Warwick 2.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham 0 Swansea 3, Robinsons 4 West Wilts 1, Whitchurch 5 Gloucester City 0; Yeovil and Sherborne 6 Weston-super-Mare 5

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: B Stortford 4 Cambridge C 7, Colchester 1 Bluehearts 4, Crostyx 5 Clacton 3, Peterborough Tn 4 W Herts 3.

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Division A (in Glasgow) **Group A:** Russelsheim 6 Siauliai 1, Cambrai 4 CP Moscow 5. **Final group standings:** 1, Russelsheim 9pts; 2, Siauliai 6; 3, Moscow 3. **Group B:** Real Sociedad 2 Slough 4, Glasgow Western 2 Lokomotiva Raca 3. **Final group standings:** 1, Slough 6pts; 2, Sociedad 6; 3, Raca 3; 4, Western 0. **Semi-finals:** Russelsheimer 11 Real Sociedad 0, Slough 4 Siauliai 2. **Final:** Russelsheimer 7 Slough 1. **Third-place play-off:** Real Sociedad 3 Siauliai 3 (Real Sociedad win 7-6 on pens). **Fifth-eighth-place play-off matches:** Glasgow Western 3 Moscow 2; Lokomotiva Raca 2 Cambrai 4. **Fifth-place play-off:** Glasgow Western 2 Cambrai 2 (Cambrai win 7-6 on pens)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich 0 Doncaster 3, Fyffes Leicester 1 Sutton 0, Olton 2 Hightown 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	12	9	1	2	31	14	28
Slough	11	8	1	2	42	20	25
Clifton	11	6	2	3	23	18	20
Hightown	12	4	7	1	23	18	19
Olton	12	3	4	5	24	32	13
Leicester	12	3	2	7	21	31	11
Sutton	12	3	0	9	16	30	9
Doncaster	12	2	1	9	21	38	7

FIRST DIVISION: Aldridge 2 Loughborough Students 1, Bradford 3 Sunderland 1; Canterbury 1 Chelmsford 1; Trojans 2 Wimbledon 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford	12	6	3	3	24	15	21
Canterbury	12	6	2	4	29	18	20
Bradford S	12	5	4	3	24	21	19
Aldridge	12	6	1	5	15	16	19
L'borough St	12	5	2	5	21	19	17
Trojans	12	4	5	3	25	25	17
Wimbledon	12	3	5	4	16	20	14
Sunderland	12	1	2	9	8	29	5

SECOND DIVISION: Bracknell 4 Hampton 1, Ealing 1 Woking 2, Old Loughtonians 2 Sherwood 0, Poynton 4 St Albans 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woking S	12	11	1	0	44	14	34
Loughtonians	12	6	3	3	36	17	21
Ealing	12	6	2	4	16	18	20
Bracknell	12	5	2	5	20	19	17
St Albans	12	4	3	5	24	31	15
Sherwood	12	4	0	8	7	17	12
Poynton	12	3	2	7	24	36	11
Hampton	12	2	1	9	18	37	7

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Blueharts 1 Sevenoaks 2, Dereham 2 Cambs C 2, Harleston 4 Ipswich 1, Letchworth 0 Bury St Edmunds 1. **Midlands:** Bedford 4 Olton 1, Belper 0 Loughborough Students 1, Crimson R 3 N Staffs 2, Kettering 0 Luton 0. **North:** Deeside R 5 Sheffield 2, Don Valley 1 Chester 4, Leyland M 1 Blackburn 8; Winnington Park 2 Liverpool 2. **South:** City of Portsmouth 1 Dulwich 2; Hendon 0 Rover 2; Horsham 1 Maidenhead 2; Reading 2 W Witney 1, Tulse Hill 2 Southampton 1. **West:** Cheltenham 2 Portishead 1, Exeter 5 T Vale 0, Leominster 1 Colwall 5, Redland 0 Exmouth 1, St Austell 0 Bournemouth 2.

RUGBY UNION

European Shield final

Bourgoin 16 Montferrand 35

Bourgoin: Try: McLaren. **Con:** Boyet. **Pens:** Boyet 3. **Dropped goal:** Boyet. **Montferrand: Tries:** A Larrue, J Marlu, penalty try. **Con:** Merceron. **Pens:** Merceron 6. **HT:** 9-13. **Att:** 32,000

(at Lyons)

Tetley's Bitter Cup

Quarter-finals

Gloucester 15 Harlequins 13

Gloucester: Pens: Mapletoft 5. **Harlequins: Try:** Harries. **Con:** Schuster. **Pens:** Schuster 2. **HT:** 6-3

Newcastle 15 Saracens 0

Newcastle: Tries: Tuigamala 2. **Con:** Wilkinson. **Pen:** Wilkinson. **HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 4,000

Richmond 15 Leicester 13

Richmond: Tries: Clarke, Williams. **Con:** Vaia. **Pen:** Vaia. **Leicester: Tries:** Back, Corry. **Pen:** Stimpson. **HT:** 12-3. **Att:** 7,088

Wasps 19 London Irish 3

Wasps: Try: Dallaglio. **Con:** Logan. **Pens:** Logan 3. **Dropped goal:** Rees. **London Irish: Pen:** Woods. **HT:** 3-3. **Att:** 11,417

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bedford 7 Sale 18

Bedford: Try: Paramore. **Con:** Howard. **Sale: Tries:** Hanley 2. **Con:** Howarth. **Pens:** Howarth 2. **HT:** 0-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	19	16	0	3	558	294	32
Northampton	18	13	0	5	470	380	26
Saracens	18	12	1	5	545	380	25
London Irish	20	12	0	8	510	458	24
Wasps	18	10	1	7	503	339	21
Newcastle	18	10	0	8	470	415	20
Bath	18	10	0	8	427	380	20
Harlequins	18	10	0	8	447	449	20
* Richmond	17	9	1	7	444	444	17
Gloucester	20	8	1	11	415	461	17
London Scot	19	7	0	12	370	453	14
Sale	20	6	0	14	445	555	12
Bedford	19	3	0	16	379	597	6
W Hartlepool	18	2	0	16	288	686	4

* Richmond deducted 2pts

Second division

Blackheath 19 Rotherham 29

Blackheath: Try: Sangster. **Con:** Amor. **Pens:** Amor 4. **Rotherham: Tries:** Lax, Scully, Shepherd, Umaga, Wade. **Cons:** Niarchos 2. **HT:** 3-24. **Att:** 600

Exeter 27 Worcester 23

Exeter: Tries: Beattie, Webber, Woss. **Cons:** B Easson 3. **Pens:** B Easson 2. **Worcester: Tries:** Le Bas, penalty try. **Cons:** Le Bas 2. **Pens:** Le Bas 3. **HT:** 13-3

Fylde 17 Moseley 8

Fylde: Tries: Evans, Lavin, Taylor. **Con:** Peacock. **Moseley: Try:** Roberts. **Pen:** Jones. **HT:** 5-3

Leeds 9 Waterloo 10

Leeds: Pens: Tupoulotu 3. **Waterloo: Try:** Morris. **Con:** L Griffiths. **Dropped goal:** Handley. **HT:** 3-10

London Welsh 42 Coventry 34

London Welsh: Tries: Currier 2, Alexander, Edwards, White. **Cons:** Lee 3. **Pens:** Lee 2. **Coventry: Tries:** Addleton, Horrobin, Smallwood. **Cons:** Gough 2. **Pens:** Gough 4. **Dropped goal:** Crisculo. **HT:** 24-17

Orrell 32 Bristol 34

Orrell: Tries: Johnson 3, Verbickas. **Cons:** Verbickas 3. **Pens:** Verbickas 2. **Bristol: Tries:** Lemoine 2, Baber, J Evans, Lines. **Cons:** Knox 3. **Pen:** Knox. **HT:** 10-17

Rugby 17 Wakefield 23

Rugby: Tries: Field, Tarbuck. **Cons:** M Davies 2. **Pen:** M Davies. **Wakefield: Tries:** Breheny, Summers, Yates. **Con:** Ashforth. **Pens:** Ashforth 2. **HT:** 0-20. **Att:** 400

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	19	15	0	4	560	302	30
* Worcester	19	16	0	3	521	251	30
Rotherham	19	15	0	4	511	246	30
London Welsh	19	13	0	6	484	419	26
Waterloo	19	11	0	8	321	375	22
Exeter	18	10	1	7	393	411	21
Leeds	19	10	0	9	450	256	20
Coventry	19	10	0	9	471	415	20
Orrell	19	8	0	11	372	329	16
Moseley	19	7	0	12	378	450	14
Rugby	18	7	0	11	298	369	14
Wakefield	19	4	0	15	332	566	8
Fylde	19	3	1	15	[illegible]	494	7
Blackheath	19	2	0	17	247	566	4

* Worcester deducted 3pts

LEADING SCORERS: 214: S Gough (Coventry, 7 tries, 34 conversions, 37 penalty goals). **187:** S Tupoulotu (Leeds, 3t, 23c, 42pg). **168:** B Easson (Exeter, 1t, 26c, 37pg). **163:** L Griffiths (Waterloo, 2t, 18c, 39pg). **136:** R Le Bas (Worcester, 4t, 22c, 24pg). **121:** M Davies (Rugby, 1t, 16c, 28pg). **119:** J Lee (Worcester, 1t, 9c, 32pg). **Tries: 12:** A Currier (London Welsh), A Larkin (Bristol), B Wade (Rotherham). **10:** D Lax (Rotherham)

Jewson National League

First division

B'ham/Solihull 15 Reading 16

B'ham/Solihull: Tries: R Chapman, Shepherd. **Con:** M Birch. **Pen:** M Birch. **Reading: Tries:** Murley, Rowlands. **Pens:** Dance 2. **HT:** 10-13

Harrogate 5 Lydney 0

Harrogate: Try: Morley. **HT:** 5-0

Liverpool St H 12 Otley 16

Liverpool St H: Tries: Lupton, Wales. **Con:** Glynn. **Otley: Tries:** Filipo, Williams. **Pens:** Clappison 2. **HT:** 12-11

Manchester 13 Henley 7

Manchester: Try: Burgon. **Con:** Swindells. **Pens:** Swindells 2. **Henley: Try:** Sharp. **Con:** Fowle. **HT:** 6-5

Nottingham 40 Camberley 27

Nottingham: Tries: Spencer 3, Delaney, Jack. **Cons:** C Atkinson 3. **Pens:** C Atkinson 2. **Camberley: Tries:** Owen 3, Green. **Cons:** G Gregory 2. **Pen:** G Gregory. **HT:** 30-3

Rosslyn Park 35 Newbury 24

Rosslyn Park: Tries: A Millward 2, Benson, Boardman, Justice, McCormick. **Con:** T Knowles. **Pen:** T Knowles. **Newbury: Tries:** Blake, Brammer, Hart, Holloway. **Cons:** Graham 2. **HT:** 25-5. **Att:** 600

Wharfedale 38 Morley 14

Wharfedale: Tries: Mounsey 3, Russ Buckroyd, Evans, Pears. **Con:** Pears. **Pens:** Pears 2. **Morley: Tries:** Standeven, Thompson. **Cons:** Bamber 2. **HT:** 28-14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	22	18	0	4	642	272	36
Henley	21	17	1	3	515	266	35
Rosslyn Park	22	14	0	8	482	326	28
Otley	22	13	1	8	372	331	27
Wharfedale	22	12	0	10	413	306	24
Nottingham	21	12	0	9	472	387	24
Newbury	22	11	1	10	441	382	23
Reading	22	10	0	12	402	478	20
Lydney	20	9	1	10	316	376	19
Camberley	22	9	1	12	427	565	19
B'ham/Solihull	22	8	0	14	358	435	16
Harrogate	22	6	2	14	329	374	14
Morley	22	5	1	16	361	559	11
Liverpool St H	22	4	0	18	283	666	8

LEADING SCORERS: 308: S Swindells (Manchester, 4 tries, 53 conversions, 61 penalty goals). **224:** C Atkinson (Nottingham, 2t, 29c, 52pg). **201:** D Pears (Wharfedale, 5t, 19c, 43pg, 3 dropped goals). **197:** G Gregory (Camberley, 2t, 23c, 46pg, 1dg). **175:** J Dance (Reading, 1t, 25c, 40pg). **159:** M Birch (Birmingham/Solihull, 2t, 25c, 33pg). **Tries: 11:** L Filipo (Otley), A Royer (Nottingham). **10:** T Burgon (Manchester). **9:** P Davies (Henley), D Muckalt (Reading), B Rowland (Reading), G Sharp (Henley), A Standeven (Morley)

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Aspatria 47 Walsall 0, Kendal 15 Preston Grasshoppers 7, Lichfield 29 Hinckley 24, Sedgley Park 20 New Brighton 28, Sheffield 3 Nuneaton 6, Whitchurch 13 Sandal 29, Winnington Park 0 Stourbridge 57

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston G	22	19	0	3	663	238	38
Stourbridge	22	18	0	4	715	349	36
New Brighton	22	17	0	5	538	221	34
Kendal	22	15	0	7	515	270	30
Nuneaton	22	13	2	7	498	417	28
Sheffield	22	12	0	10	402	369	24
Sandal	21	11	0	10	549	471	22
Sedgley Park	21	10	1	10	569	412	21
Aspatria	21	10	0	11	499	468	20
Whitchurch	22	8	1	13	361	506	17
Walsall	22	8	1	13	402	622	17
Hinckley	21	4	1	16	310	608	9
Lichfield	22	2	0	20	300	735	4
Winnington Pk	22	2	0	20	246	813	4

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Bracknell 16 Esher 11, Cheltenham 0 Barking 22, Norwich 41 Met Police 3, Plymouth 11 North Walsham 23, Redruth 49 Bridgwater 17, Tabard 11 Havant 14, Weston-super-Mare 7 Clifton 22

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bracknell	22	20	0	2	504	275	40
Esher	22	19	0	3	701	261	38
N Walsham	22	19	0	3	507	241	38
Barking	21	16	0	5	525	252	32
Met Police	22	12	1	9	391	443	25
Norwich	22	10	0	12	344	347	20
W-s-Mare	22	9	1	12	356	425	19
Tabard	22	8	1	13	361	381	17
Redruth	22	7	1	14	431	516	15
Clifton	21	7	1	13	320	410	15
Bridgwater	22	6	2	14	367	536	14
Plymouth	22	6	1	15	380	530	13
Cheltenham	22	5	0	17	291	529	10
Havant	22	5	0	17	276	618	10

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Basingstoke 35 Guildford and Godalming 16, Harlow 15 Westcombe Park 43; Old Mid-Whitgiftians 9 Old Colfeians 9, Staines 56 Thurrock 13, Sudbury 20 Cheshunt 5, Sutton and Epsom 27 Thanet Wanderers 10, Wimbledon 30 Charlton Park 0, Woodford 29 Ruislip 12. **SOUTH WEST:** Barnstaple 26 Old Patesians 0; Berry Hill 20 Salisbury 18, Gloucester OB 25 Torquay Athletic 0, Keynsham 30 Matson 10, Maidenhead 15 Penzance-Newlyn 50; Stroud 0 Launceston 55. **MIDLANDS:** Banbury 38 Mansfield 13; Barkers Butts 10 Dudley 31, Bedford Athletic 22 Scunthorpe 13, Belgrave 14 Westleigh 12; Burton 19 Stoke-on-Trent 9, Hereford 33 Leighton Buzzard 3. **NORTH:** Blaydon 40 Broughton Park 10; Hull Ionians 14 Northern 15, Middlesbrough 7 Macclesfield 10; Stockton 22 Bridlington 20; Tynedale 5 Doncaster 9, Wigton 6 Widnes 16.

CLUB MATCH: Northampton 34 Scottish Districts 10.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England 34 Scotland 7, England A 44 Scotland A 5

SWALEC Cup

Sixth round

Aberavon 12 Cardiff 20

Aberavon: Pens: C Rees 4. **Cardiff: Tries:** S Hill 2, G Thomas. **Con:** Burke. **Pen:** Burke. **HT:** 6-5.

Blackwood 9 Tredegar 12

Blackwood: Pens: Lay 3. **Tredegar: Pens:** M Jones 4. **HT:** 6-3

(after extra time)

Bridgend 16 Swansea 43

Bridgend: Try: A Williams. **Con:** Cull. **Pens:** Cull 3. **Swansea: Tries:** Arnold, Jenkins, O Jones, Moriarty, penalty try, A Thomas. **Cons:** A Thomas 4, L Davies. **Pen:** A Thomas

Caerphilly 15 Ebbw Vale 20

Caerphilly: Tries: Davey, John. **Con:** Davey. **Pen:** Davey. **Ebbw Vale: Tries:** Faletau, penalty try, J Williams. **Con:** Strange. **Pen:** Strange. **HT:** 12-8

Cross Keys 39 Tondu 11

Cross Keys: Tries: S Gardner 2, Bushell, Crane, P Watkins. **Cons:** Bebb 4. **Pens:** Bebb 2. **Tondu: Try:** Tatchell. **Pens:** G Watts 2. **HT:** 28-6

Llanelli 91 Llanhilleth 0

Llanelli: Tries: Proctor 4, McBryde 3, I Jones 2, Warlow 2, N Boobyer, N Davies, Hodges, S Jones. **Cons:** S Jones 7, Hayward. **HT:** 36-0

Pontypool 15 Neath 14

Pontypool: Tries: Brown, M Cawley. **Con:** Silva. **Pen:** Silva. **Neath: Tries:** Penalty try, S Williams. **Cons:** M Pearce 2. **HT:** 10-7

Pontypridd 47 Bonymaen 12

Pontypridd: Tries: G Lewis 3, James 2, P John, Wyatt. **Cons:** Wyatt 3. **Pens:** Wyatt 2. **Bonymaen: Tries:** Carlsen, G Williams. **Con:** S Davies. **HT:** 23-0

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Pontypridd v Llanelli, Swansea v Ebbw Vale, Pontypool v Cardiff, Tredegar v Cross Keys

☐ Ties to be played March 27

Welsh League

First division

Llandovery 22 Newbridge 18

Llandovery: Tries: S Lewis, penalty try, H Thomas. **Cons:** Hancox 2. **Pen:** Hancox. **Newbridge: Tries:** Perryment, Spencer. **Con:** Samuels. **Pens:** Williams 2. **HT:** 10-5

Rumney 25 Abertillery 11

Rumney: Tries: Bowcott, Davies, K Lee, Ryce. **Con:** Davies. **Pen:** Davies. **Abertillery: Try:** D Williams. **Pens:** Stent 2. **HT:** 5-11.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	20	17	0	3	737	285	110	19	70
Bonymaen	20	14	2	4	465	256	64	11	55
Pontypool	19	15	0	4	510	326	66	8	53
Merthyr	22	13	2	7	454	405	61	5	46
Cross Keys	19	13	1	5	468	325	54	5	45
Treorchy	19	11	1	7	502	325	69	9	43
Llandovery	20	11	1	8	489	441	65	5	39
Abertillery	21	10	2	9	393	422	46	6	38
Rumney	19	10	0	9	361	443	53	8	38
Newbridge	22	9	0	13	450	439	50	5	32
Tondu	22	8	1	13	345	488	44	4	29
Tredegar	19	7	1	11	356	393	43	3	25
Blackwood	18	5	1	12	307	352	48	6	22
UWIC	18	4	1	13	332	497	43	3	16
SW Police	21	4	1	16	307	605	43	0	13
Maesteg	19	1	0	18	209	683	23	1	4

SECOND DIVISION: Llanharan 32 Ystradgynlais 10, Narberth 17 Abercynon 24, Pyle 16 Mountain Ash 31, Rhymney 13 Llantrisant 10, Whitland 32 St Peters 13, Wrexham 23 Oakdale 17. **Postponed:** Kenfig Hill v Tenby Utd

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Boroughmuir 25 W of Scotland 24

Boroughmuir: Tries: Fitzgerald, Graham, Kiddie, M Murray. **Con:** C Howarth. **Pen:** Calvin Howarth. **West of Scotland: Tries:** Pope 2, Curtis, Kerr. **Cons:** Curtis 2. **HT:** 7-19.

Glasgow H 30 Watsonians 10

Glasgow Hawks: Tries: Bassi, Docherty, Matthewson, Plastow. **Cons:** E Martin 2. **Pens:** E Martin 2. **Watsonians: Try:** Dickson. **Con:** Aitchison. **Pen:** Aitchison. **HT:** 13-0. **Att:** 400

Hawick 21 Heriot's FP 47

Hawick: Tries: Cranston 2, Gray. **Pens:** Murdie 2. **Heriot's FP: Tries:** Walker 3, Short, J Smith. **Cons:** Ross 5. **Pens:** Ross 4. **HT:** 8-26.

Jed-Forest 27 Currie 55

Jed-Forest: Tries: Liddle 2, Laidlow. **Cons:** C Richards 3. **Pens:** C Richards 2. **Currie: Tries:** Reed 3, Armstrong, Bowie, Caldwell, M Thompson. **Cons:** Donaldson 7. **Pens:** Donaldson 2. **HT:** 13-27.

Stirling County 29 Melrose 41

Stirling County: Tries: Dunsire, Fraser, Lewis, Mailer. **Cons:** Mailer 3. **Pen:** Mailer. **Melrose: Tries:** Aitken, Browne, Henderson, Laurie, penalty try, Purvis, B Ruthven. **Cons:** McGarva 3. **HT:** 15-21

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Heriot's FP	16	12	0	4	503	284	11	59
Glasgow H	16	12	1	3	400	225	7	57
Melrose	16	11	0	5	438	275	10	54
Currie	13	10	0	3	317	243	4	44
Hawick	14	8	0	6	284	337	5	37

SECOND DIVISION: Aberdeen GSFP 11 Kelso 18, Biggar 19 Musselburgh 14, Dundee HSFP 38 Kilmarnock 13, Edinburgh Acads 10 Selkirk 18, Gala 18 Kirkcaldy 34. **Third division:** Ayr 30 Stewart's Mel FP 17, Glasgow Southern 15 Gordonians 24, Glenrothes 15 Berwick 10, Grangemouth 10 East Kilbride 10; Preston Lodge 17 Peebles 23.

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena 13 Garryowen 18, Blackrock 10 Buccaneers 14, Clontarf 9 Shannon 24; Cork Constitution 38 St Mary's 0, Terenure 25 Galwegians 18, Young Munster 8 Lansdowne 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Garryowen	9	6	0	3	185	127	12
Buccaneers	8	6	0	2	158	142	12
Lansdowne	9	6	0	3	153	139	12
Cork Const	8	5	0	3	201	123	10
St Marys	9	5	0	4	179	154	10
Y Munster	9	4	1	4	108	85	9
Shannon	7	4	0	3	130	105	8
Ballymena	6	3	0	3	115	121	6
Blackrock Col	9	3	0	6	150	197	6
Clontarf	9	3	0	6	150	211	6
Terenure	7	2	1	4	96	121	5
Galwegians	8	1	0	7	102	202	2

SECOND DIVISION: Bective Rangers 19 Dolphin 16, DLSP 17 Malone 15; Derry 24 Greystones 22; Dungannon 30 Old Belvedere 21; Portadown 21 Old Crescent 18, Skerries 8 Wanderers 13; Sunday's Well 19 Old Wesley 10; UCC 30 Ballynahinch 15

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Cats (SA) 33 ACT Brumbies 22, Otago Highlanders 19 Auckland Blues 13; Queensland 11 Wellington 0; Stormers (SA) 42 Northern Bulls 19; Durban Sharks 13 New South Wales 13

Be it with flowers or hampers, pamper her

Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday

Family life has changed dramatically over the past century and will continue to do so into the next, but on the eve of the millennium the dream of the perfect mother continues to hover on the edges of our lives. Because the role of motherhood is such an emotive one it is easy to place it on a pedestal and find fault with mothers who are thought not to measure up.

Hardly a week goes by without mothers who are single, mothers who work, mothers who are too old and those who are too young coming in for some form of criticism.

Even the celebration of Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, held on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages (this year it falls on March 14), was originally an onerous one. It was the day on which the congregations of daughter churches honoured the mother church by visiting it in processions, carrying banners. After the Reformation this solemn celebration was transferred to honour the mother of the family.

There are no banners now, but whether you celebrate Mother's Day by serving her breakfast in bed, with freshly baked croissants (frozen beforehand, then slightly heated), a new honey or jam pot as a keepsake and a spray of flowers, or whether you organise a surprise trip to Venice for the weekend — a dream city for a much-loved mum — it is the honouring of her individual worth that counts.

Magazine articles abound with ideas on what to give. If she really has a sense of humour, there is a Swatch watch with the words "Dear mum, it's time to say thank you" there on the face.

Lovely though presents are, Mother's Day is not just about giving treats. It is also the day for letting her know how much she is valued and appreciated. Giving a complete fashion or facial makeover would be great, giving a new frying pan would not — unless it is one she would really love to have.

It is important to think seriously about what to buy, and to think ahead. Trying to order flowers the afternoon before Mother's Day can be a nightmare. Phone lines are often jammed and flowershops sold out.

Flowers Direct offers flowers not always available in this country, particularly at this time of the year, and Blooms By Post specialises in orchids.

Ordering is made easier by the number of Mother's Day flowers and presents — such as hampers — available on the Internet.

If you live in or near East London, the Sunday morning Columbia Road flower market is not only a lovely place to stroll around, but it also provides a wonderful array of plants and cut flowers at market prices, and the street is lined with shops selling ceramic pots, garden and house ornaments and antique knickknacks.

Stylish transparent Perspex bowls and dishes can be filled with chocolates, nuts or fruit for the occasion and it is easy to find brands of bathroom toiletries that come in bottles so elegant that they just cannot be thrown away. There is also some beautiful costume jewellery around — this may be something she thinks about buying but never gets round to doing.

And if you find you are stuck with buying flowers at the petrol station on Sunday morning, purchase a couple of bunches in the same colour range and make them into one large bunch. The idea of the gift, whether large or small, is to pamper and bring pleasure.

The responsibility of being a mother can weigh heavy. After all, it is not a nine-to-five job. There is no retirement age and the nagging feeling that it could be done better never goes away.

Nor does the sense of responsibility, although the role alters dramatically as toddlers progress to adults. However much heart-strings are tugged, mothers need to adapt.

The rules of motherhood aim impossibly high. Mothers should be there for their children while allowing them to live their own lives, extend a love so great that they do not feel deprived but not so encompassing that they feel smothered.

Mothers should never interfere but always be aware of what is going on, so as to offer the right advice when needed. Children should be neither shown up nor put down. Mothers should dress neither frumpishly nor garishly and not draw attention to themselves when picking children up from school.

A mother can relax and be herself once her children grow up, but she should never slack off in her role. The need for love, comfort and a shoulder to lean on continues, and becomes even more complicated when children become parents and mothers become grandmothers — another role and yet another set of rules.



Mother's Day is not just about giving gifts, but letting her know how much she is appreciated

Chancery Division

Law Report March 1 1999

Damages for breach of fiduciary duty

Nationwide Building Society v Various Solicitors (No 3)

Before Mr Justice Blackburne

[Judgment February 2]

The correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken.

The court could have regard to any inference which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty. Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that the beneficiary could show that but for the breach of duty, he would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

Where, in order to establish a breach of fiduciary duty it was necessary to find that the fiduciary was consciously disloyal to the beneficiary, the fiduciary was disabled from asserting that the beneficiary contributed to the loss which he suffered flowing from the breach.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when considering 12 claims of the plaintiff, Nationwide Building Society, against 12 firms of solicitors retained by it, inter alia, to investigate and report on title, for breach of common law duties, and, in some cases, breach of fiduciary duty.

The plaintiff made mortgage advances to 12 borrowers each of which was secured by a first charge over the borrower's property. The borrowers defaulted and on sale of the properties the price realised fell far short of the sum required to discharge the loan.

In each case, the solicitor retained by the plaintiff to investigate and report on title also acted for the borrower in question. The cases exhibited unusual features such as the existence of a sub-sale or an agreement by the vendor to discharge the borrower's expenses of the transaction by varying the purchase price.

The plaintiff sued the solicitors claiming that in breach of duty they had failed to disclose those features which if disclosed, would have led the plaintiff to withdraw its offer of advance.

The duties alleged included express duties under the terms of the retainers, implied duties including a duty to inform the plaintiff of any matters of which the solicitor was aware which a reasonably competent conveyancing solicitor would conclude might be relevant to the valuation of the property or some other aspect of the plaintiff's decision whether to lend and if so how much, and breach of fiduciary duties including the fiduciary's duty not to place himself in a position where his duties to his two principals conflicted.

The cases raised, inter alia, the question of the correct test for assessing equitable compensation where breach of fiduciary duty was established.

Mr Nicholas Patten, QC, Mr Timothy Higginson, Mr Ian Gatt, Mr Tom Leech and Mr Michael Pryor for Nationwide; Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, Mr Jonathan Simpkiss, Mr Francis Bacon, Mr William Flenley, Mr Tony Oakley and Mr Spike Charlwood for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE said that one of the issues which had arisen was whether, where breach of fiduciary was alleged, the "what if" approach to assessing damages at common law was in point, that is, whether, assuming causation in the sense of a causal connection between breach and loss had been shown, it was relevant to establish what course of action the plaintiff would have followed if the solicitor had carried out his duty.

His Lordship extensively reviewed the authorities, including *London Loan and Savings Company v Brickenden* ([1934] 3 DLR 465) and *Target Holdings Ltd v Redferns (a Firm)* ([1996] AC 421).

The latter case encouraged his Lordship to think that where, as in the instant cases, what was at issue was the consequence of a misrepresentation or non-disclosure made by the fiduciary which had caused the beneficiary to authorise the application of his moneys in a particular way, the only sensible approach to the question of compensation for the consequences of the misrepresentation or non-disclosure was to consider what would have happened if there had been no misrepresentation or the appropriate disclosure had been made.

Where the fiduciary had induced the giving of authority by a statement which he knew to be untrue, it might be that the policy so clearly articulated in the speech of Lord Steyn in *Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd* ([1997] AC 254) which applied in the case of common law deceit resulting in compensation assessed on the restitutionary or "but for" basis should apply to the question of compensation in equity.

Short of that, his Lordship did not see why equity should close its eyes to what the beneficiary would have done if there had been no misrepresentation or the appropriate disclosure had been made.

The correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken. The court could have regard to any inference which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty.

Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that he could show that but for the breach of duty, the beneficiary would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

The view that *Brickenden* did not prevent a fiduciary from proving what the client beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty now appeared to prevail in the courts of New Zealand and Canada.

Those courts in recent cases had interpreted *Brickenden* to mean that, once breach of fiduciary duty was established through the failure of the fiduciary to disclose material facts to the beneficiary, it was not open to the court to speculate on the course the beneficiary would have taken had the duty been discharged.

It was nevertheless open to the fiduciary, on whom the onus lay, to show if he could, what the beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty and whether, therefore, the beneficiary had suffered any and if so what loss which should be compensated.

As to the issue of lender fault in equity, his Lordship said that in English law contributory negligence had never been a defence to an intentional tort. In such cases the Law Reform: Contributory Negligence Act 1945 had no application.

By parity of reasoning, his Lordship could see no good reason why equity should adopt a less rigorous approach. His Lordship therefore took the view that where, in order to establish a breach of fiduciary duty it was necessary to find that the fiduciary was consciously disloyal to the beneficiary, the fiduciary was disabled from asserting that the beneficiary contributed to the loss which he suffered flowing from the breach.

That did not mean that the conduct of the person to whom the fiduciary duty was owed was irrelevant. There came a point, following the breach of the fiduciary duty, where the loss was too remote for the breach to be said to be a loss flowing from it or where the claimant's own conduct came into play as a factor determining the loss for which he could recover.

His Lordship also commented on the benefit of the managed list procedure adopted in the trial of the 12 actions, which were a representative cross-section of more than 400 claims mounted by the plaintiff.

His Lordship said that by the procedure he was enabled to obtain a more balanced view of the way the plaintiff operated than if he had tried a single trial only.

In particular, his Lordship was better able to assess, partly by virtue of the plaintiff's extensive discovery in the action, what the plaintiff's response should have been to the information supplied to it by the applicant borrowers (relevant to contributory negligence) and how it would have reacted to the disclosures which it said the defendant solicitors should have made to it (relevant to causation).

His Lordship found levels of contributory negligence by the plaintiff in many cases which reduced the damages to which it was entitled by amounts ranging between 20 per cent and 90 per cent of the sums claimed.

Factors his Lordship took into account in making those findings included failing to heed warnings issued by the industry regulator concerning the need to be prudent about lending, placing too much emphasis on the value of the underlying security and too little on the borrower's convenant, lending at excessively high loan to value percentages and failing to spell out its reporting needs in its printed instructions to solicitors.

Solicitors: Burges Salmon, Bristol; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Queen's Bench Division

Enforcing award in foreign arbitration

Minmetals Germany GmbH v Ferco Steel Ltd

Before Mr Justice Colman

[Judgment January 20]

By agreeing the place of a foreign arbitration, a party not only agreed to submit all contractual disputes to arbitration but also agreed that the conduct of the arbitration should be subject to the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of that place.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the order of Mr Justice Cresswell made on January 12, 1998, under section 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996, giving leave to Minmetals Germany GmbH to enforce against Ferco Steel Ltd an award dated September 29, 1995 in an initial arbitration, and an award dated March 20, 1997 in the resumed arbitration, conducted under the auspices of the China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission, of Beijing.

Mr Duncan Mathews for Minmetals; Mr Michael Swainston for Ferco.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said it was common ground that the awards were enfoceable in England under the Arbitration Act 1975 which gave effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958: see Fifth Report of the International Law Committee 1961 (Cmnd 1515).

Nor was it disputed by Ferco that unless it could persuade the Beijing court to order a retrial and, as a result, the Beijing court ordered revocation, the awards were, as they stood, final and enforceable under Chinese law.

Section 102(1) and (2) of the Arbitration Act 1996 expressly provided that such awards must be enforced unless the party against whom enforcement was sought proved that the case fell within one of the exceptions in subsection (2).

With regard to the court's power under section 103(3) to decline to enforce or recognise an award on the grounds of inarbitrability of the subject matter or of enforcement being contrary to public policy, whereas it was always open to the court to take an illegality point of its own volition, if a respondent to enforcement wished to rely on matters within subsection (3), the burden of making good the objection to enforcement clearly rested on that party.

Article 53 of the arbitration commission rules was clearly and expressly applicable to the conduct of arbitrators in making their award. His Lordship was in no doubt that in making the first award they had not acted in accordance with international practices and the principles of fairness and reasonableness.

However, the position following the Beijing court's order for a resumed hearing was that the evidence relied on by the arbitrators was open to challenge by means of a request for sight of the award and of the evidence on which it was based.

Since no such challenge was advanced, Ferco had waived its right to object to the continuing omission of the arbitrators to disclose the award under article 45 of the rules.

The public policy issue arose in relation to the New York Convention award made pursuant to a Chinese agreed arbitral authority. In international commerce, a party who contracted into an agreement to arbitrate in a foreign jurisdiction was bound not only by the local arbitration procedure but also by the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of the seat of the arbitration.

If the award was defective or the arbitration was defectively conducted the party who complained of the defect must in the first instance pursue such remedies as existed under that supervisory jurisdiction.

Adherence to that part of the arbitration agreement must be a cardinal policy consideration by an English court considering enforcement of a foreign award.

In a case where a party against whom enforcement was sought alleged that a New York Convention award should not be enforced on the ground that such enforcement would lead to substantial injustice and therefore be contrary to English public policy the following must normally be included among the relevant considerations:

1 The nature of the procedural injustice.
2 Whether that party had invoked the supervisory jurisdiction of the seat of the arbitration.
3 Whether a remedy was available under that jurisdiction.
4 Whether the courts of that jurisdiction had conclusively determined the enforcee's complaint in favour of upholding the award.
5 If that party had failed to invoke that remedial jurisdiction, what reason had he and, in particular, whether he was acting unreasonably in failing to do so.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley; Ince & Co.

European Patent Convention forum shopping

Sepracor Inc v Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment January 29]

The court would not exercise its discretion so as to make an order which prevented a party from litigating in a court where, under the European Patent Convention, he was entitled to sue. Facts which gave rise only to an inference that a defendant had knowingly facilitated or assisted another person to infringe were insufficient to constitute him a joint tortfeasor.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, on the hearing of an application by the first to sixth defendants: Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd, Marion Merrell Ltd, Hoechst AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel Deutschland GmbH and Hoechst Marion Roussel Inc, an American subsidiary of the third defendant, to strike out proceedings against them commenced by the plaintiff, Sepracor Inc, in England on September 28, 1998, seeking a declaration that European Patent (UK) 0,701,433 and the equivalent designations of it in each of 12 other countries, including Denmark and France, but not Belgium, were valid. The seventh defendant, Georgetown University, was co-proprietor with Sepracor of that patent.

Mr Richard Meade for Sepracor; Mr Andrew Waugh, QC, for the first to sixth defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that the UK patent in suit concerned an antihistamine drug, terfenadine carboxylate. Various Hoechst companies, in various countries, marketed a rival product under the trade marks "Telfast" or "Allegra".

On May 4, 1998 the fifth defendant and a Belgian company in the Hoechst group had commenced proceedings in Belgium against Sepracor. There had been unchallenged evidence that a patent action there would take some five years to come to trial and any appeal would take another five.

Among practitioners, such forum shopping was called "deploying the Belgian torpedo".

No pleadings responsive to Sepracor's writ and statement of claim having been served, on December 4, the first defendant petitioned the High court to revoke Sepracor's UK patent and launched the present notice of motion to strike out its writ and statement of claim on the ground, inter alia, that it was not open to Sepracor to sue here in respect of infringements in other countries when the validity of the patents themselves were or would be in issue.

Anyone uncontaminated by familiarity with the European Patent Convention and having to litigate in a national court, might think Germany, the source of all the Hoechst drugs to be sold in Europe, was the obvious forum for resolving validity and infringement.

But that was the course both sides wished to avoid: Hoechst wanting the German and French issues decided in Belgium, Sepracor in England. Further, in relation to all countries except England, Sepracor wanted to restrain local infringement without suing the local companies primarily responsible for alleged infringements.

In the light of *Fort Dodge Ltd v Akzo Nobel NV* ([1998] FSR 222) Sepracor had conceded, without formally agreeing, that the pleaded claims in relation to the foreign designations were not justiciable here so all the relevant parts of the pleadings and particulars of infringement would be struck out.

Mr Waugh had also cited *Saccharin Corporation v Wild* ([1903] Ch 410) as justifying a strike-out of those parts under Order 15, rule 5(1) or Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court as likely to prejudice embarrass or delay the trial of the purely domestic issues.

His Lordship did not accept that authority as justifying that course. Courts here frequently had to decide issues of foreign law.

The choice was between one action here, with evidence relating to 12 countries' laws, nearly identical since each country had tried to implement the provisions of the European Patent Convention, or 13 separate actions in 13 countries, with 26 teams of lawyers.

His Lordship had no doubt that one action would be quicker, cheaper and more convenient. It was well established that considerations of forum conveniens were not relevant under the convention and he could think of no circumstances that would justify him in preventing a party from litigating in a court in which the convention entitled him to sue.

The judgment of Lord Justice Hobhouse in *Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland NV v Export Credit Guarantee Department* ([1998] 1 Lloyd's Rep 19) illustrated the ambit of the law concerning joint tortfeasors:

"There is no tort of knowing assistance ... the liability in tort for the act of another depends ... upon participation in, or authorisation of, that act..." (at p42a).

"Acts which knowingly facilitate the commission of a crime amount to ... aiding and abetting but they do not amount to a tort or make the aider liable as a joint tortfeasor" (at p 46a).

"Mere ... knowing assistance does not suffice ... the secondary party ... must have conspired with the primary party or procured or induced his commission of the tort ... or have joined in the common design pursuant to which the tort was committed ..." (at p 46b).

Applying that guidance and that of Lord Justice Glidewell in *Unilever plc v Chefaro Proprietaries Ltd* ([1994] FSR 135, 138) to the effect that there must be some act in furtherance of the common design and/or that the secondary party had procured or assisted the primary party to infringe.

His Lordship did not accept that an arguable case of joint tortfeasance had been demonstrated against the third to sixth defendants, who had to be removed from the action.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards; Bird & Bird.

Distribution to departing shareholders lawful

MacPherson and Another v European Strategic Bureau Ltd

Before Mr Justice Ferris

[Judgment January 22]

There was no unlawful distribution contrary to section 263(1) of the Companies Act 1985 where the shareholders of a quasi-partnership, in which the participants received any income only from the profits made by the business, entered into an agreement under which departing shareholders were paid a percentage of profits earned from contracts on which they had worked prior to their departure in proportion to their former stake in the company.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in a reserved judgment in favour of each of the plaintiffs, Mr Iain Francis Duncan MacPherson and Miss Susan Forevell, in the sum of £35,853.94 being money due to them from the defendants, European Strategic Bureau Ltd, under the revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991.

Mr Pushpinder Saini for the plaintiffs; Mr Robert Wright, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that in 1989 the plaintiffs and a Mr Richard Lyman set up the defendant company to provide investment banking services to European healthcare companies.

As most of ESB's service contracts only provided for the company to be paid in the event of its efforts on behalf of the client being successful, the company's activities were initially largely financed through loans made by Mr MacPherson.

When the plaintiffs decided to leave ESB in February 1991, a revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991 provided for fees received after that date to be applied in the following order: in payment of accrued liabilities; in repayment of the loans made by Mr MacPherson; in repayment of loans made by Mr Lyman.

Any surplus was to be distributed between the two plaintiffs and Mr Lyman in the proportions 25:25:50 as payment for consultancy services provided by them to ESB. Under this provision each of the plaintiffs claimed £35,853.94.

His Lordship rejected Mr Wright's submission that the revised shareholders' agreement constituted an unlawful distribution of company property contrary to section 263 of the Companies Act 1985.

The agreement provided for the payment of the company's overheads, and the balance was more naturally to be regarded as deferred remuneration for those who had previously worked without pay in the expectation of receiving a share of the company's future profits than as a gratuitous payment of ESB's money to its shareholders.

His Lordship rejected an alternative submission that the plaintiffs, and Mr Lyman, had failed to declare their interests prior to entering into the revised shareholders' agreement contrary to section 317 of the 1985 Act.

There was unanimous shareholder approval of the agreement and no amount of formal disclosure could have increased the other shareholders' relevant knowledge.

In any event a breach of section 317 would only have made the shareholders' agreement voidable. Reliance on such a contravention could only benefit ESB if it had had the opportunity to rescind the agreement and had in fact done so.

Mr MacPherson has resigned his directorship, and both plaintiffs have transferred their shares to Mr Lyman pursuant to the terms of the agreement, which had been performed in a number of respects. It was now impossible for ESB to rescind.

Solicitors: Thomson Snell & Passmore, Tunbridge Wells; Bristows Cooke & Carpmael.

Correction

In *Preston Borough Council v McGrath* (*The Times* February 18) the solicitors for Preston were Davies Wallis Foyster, Liverpool.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,046.90	Allied Domecq	482½ +	14½	5.2	12.6
151.00	Bulmer (HP)	285 +	2½	6.6	12.8
7.41	Burn Stewart	12½		...	...
24,704.80	Diageo	689½ +	40	2.9	30.9
97.90	Glenmorangie A	730 +	7½	2.5	19.6
329.30	Highland Distl	246½ −	4	4.7	11.3
7.16	Morrison W	37 +	...		
3,377.60	SA Breweries†	943½ +	31½	3.8	14.3

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
18,137.30	ABN-AMRO	1271½ +	68½	3.1	15.5
17,755.00	Abbey Natl	1250 +	2	3.7	17.1
4,908.50	Alliance & Leic	840½ −	42	3.2	15.1
3,346.90	Allied Irish†	1085 +	48½	2.2	
6,325.50	Aus New Z	403 −	10½	5.0	
69,612.40	Bank America	4021½ +	35	...	
11,157.70	Bank Scotland	902 −	2½	1.4	22.8
25,156.60	Barclays†	1666 −	35	3.4	18.6
6,639.80	Bk of Ireland	1255 −	27	2.2	31.2
7,084.70	Commerzbk	1753½ +	75	3.1	
11,903.10	Dai Ichi Kan Y	331½ +	9½	1.2	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6,000.30	GKN	844 −	10	1.8	20.2
34,317.10	General Mtr†	5242½ +	28½	2.4	...
253.40	Henlys	467½ −	21½	4.4	11.8
23,427.70	Honda Motor	2404½ +	209½	0.5	17.0
318.00	Laird	223 +	13	6.4	7.3
1,860.50	LucasVarity	393½ +	1½	2.1	17.8
397.70	Mayflower	154½ +	9½	2.4	13.9
24.70	Syltone	101½		8.6	7.4
13.70	Toad	21 −	1½	...	
115.90	Tomkins	081 +	2	...	...
38.70	Wishaw	41½ +	½	3.0	13.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
42.10	High Income T	116	..	7.5	14.9
41.20	I&S UK Smlr	141½ +	1½	2.6	48.2
491.10	Inv Cap	198½ +	1½	3.7	33.3
39.60	Int Biotech	45	...	...	..
48.90	INVESCO Asia	43½ +	1	1.9	41.0
116.40	INVESCO Eng Inl	132 +	1	1.7	...
11.50	INVESCO Jap Dis	41½ +	3½	..	..
17.50	INVESCO Korea	52½ +	2	..	...
28.90	INVESCO Tokyo	25½ +	½	.	.
68.90	JF Fledg Jap	189½ +	1	..	...
25.40	J Fry Euro U	238½ +	2	3.1	34.8
91.50	J Fry Util	150½ −	½	4.7	18.0
49.60	J Fry Util Inc	86 −	½	8.1	62.4
52.00	Jupiter Ex Inct	140 −	½	7.0	17.6
2.16	Jupiter Ex IncWt	35 −	½	...	...
35.00	Jupiter Intl Gm	143 +	½	3.6	...
45.40	Jupiter Prima	808 +	15	1.0	...
57.00	Kiwi End	190 +	2	...	...
84.80	Korea Euro	181 −	6½	0.7	...
255.10	Law Debenture	1099½ +	24½	3.3	30.6
38.50	Lib Of Gop	123½ +	½	...	...
29.30	Lloyds Sm Cap	119½ +	2½	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
84.90	Central Euro Gwth	40 −	2½	..	
406.20	Chad European	501½ +	10	1.5	.
69.50	City Merch HYT	193½ +	5	7.8	...
569.10	City Of Lon†	265½ +	9½	3.2	36.5
5.87	Danae Inv Inct	80½	..	13.2	10.3
115.50	Dartmoor	187½ +	½	8.9	13.5
2.16	Dartmoor Wts	54			
30.50	Dartmoor RPI	£160½ −	100	4.8	..
93.80	Derby Cap	610 +	5	1.9	
13.10	Derby Inct	117 −	1½	19.8	6.4
20.40	Dresdner RCM Emg	71½ −	1		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
14.20	Natwest Est	315	...	2.4	41.4
0.98	Newmarket	2½	..	..	..
54.30	Pacific Assets	41½ +	1	1.0	..
44.40	Perpetual Euro	123½ +	1½	0.5	.
276.20	Perp Inc Gth	128½ +	1	3.5	28.2
11.70	Perpetual Jap	32 +	1½	..	
44.10	Perp UK Sm Co	315 +	2	2.8	40.2
38.50	Personal Assets	£192½ +	50	1.6	..
8.55	Piccadilly Gwth	103		1.9	..
77.40	Prolific Inc	136½ +	4½	4.7	29.8
631.58	RIT Cap Ptm	330½ +	5½	0.8	..
8,658.40	Robeco N/V	7581½ +	262½	1.5	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
104.00	[illegible]	26½ +	4½	..	4.2
1,841.20	Rank Gp†	238 +	15½	8.1	9.8
84.10	Regal Hotel	29 −	½	5.7	5.7
44.10	Ryan Hotels IE	60½ +	2½	4.0	10.3
9.23	Sheffield United	18½ −	1	...	.
26.20	Sinclair (Wm)	118 −	1½	9.5	9.4
10.60	Southampton	39	...	3.2	4.2
1,275.30	Stakis	165 +	9½	2.0	20.3
328.00	Stanley Leisure	287½ +	8½	2.1	16.4
2.59	Tandem	2½ +	½	...	...
1,300.10	Tarjoong#	346	...	1.0	44.7
760.80	Thistle Hotels	140½ +	5	3.8	12.1
1,680.00	Thomson Travel	168 +	4½	2.1	21.9
74.50	Tottenham Hot	74 +	4	0.4	...
23.70	Waterfall†	57½ −	½	0.4	13.4
205.30	Wembley	370½ −	3½	1.3	9.6
9.11	Zetters Gpt	126½ +	16	9.4	8.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
83.00	Hodder H'line	235	.	4.6	13.4
55.60	ITE Group	35	...	6.3	5.0
64.00	Incepta	19½	.	2.2	8.6
585.50	Independent†	235 +	2½	3.6	..
411.30	Informa	348 +	3	1.7	26.1
3.81	Interoscope	88½		6.8	8.0
475.90	Johnston Press	237½	..	1.7	16.8
26.20	Lopex	48 −	½	2.9	8.4
129.70	Maiden	330 −	10	2.3	20.6
3.92	Mediakey	5½	.	18.2	..
140.40	Metal Bulletin	1325 +	87½	2.2	32.4
885.60	Mirror Gp	194 −	1½	3.3	13.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

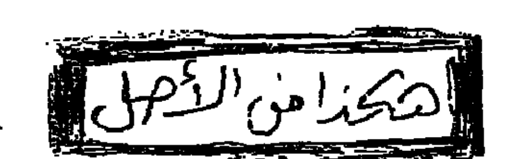
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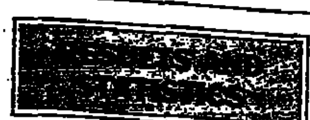
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TODAY

Interims: Close Brothers Group, Domestic & General, Hays, McBride, Redrow, Scottish Inv Trust (first quarter). **Finals:** Aegis, Aggreko, Bisichi Mining, Billiton, Burmah Castrol, Dixon Motors, Finelist Group, Grafton Group, Hodder Headline, London & Associated Properties, Marshalls, Ocean Group, Perkins Foods, Sherwood International, Sun Life & Provincial Holdings. **Economic statistics:** Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply February manufacturing sector survey. January net new consumer credit, February provisional M0, January final M4, M4 lending.

TOMORROW

Interims: Britt Allcroft, Druid Group, News Communications & Media. **Finals:** Arriva, BPP Holdings, CRH, Epwin Group, Fairview Holdings, Gallaher, Hickson International, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group, Millennium & Copthorne, Norwich Union, PSD Group, Rentokil Initial, RJB Mining, Wates City of London Properties. **Economic statistics:** Halifax February house price survey, end-February official reserves, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: S Lyles, Photobition. **Finals:** William Baird, Britannic, Cakebread Robey, Cookson Group, Dawson International, Enterprise Oil, GKN, Jacobs Holdings, Parity, Psion, Serco Group, Thistle Hotels, Wilson Bowden. **Economic statistics:** Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply February service sector survey, Confederation of British Industry February quarterly distributive trades survey, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee rate decision.

THURSDAY

Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** Elementis, Furlong Homes Group, Oxford Glycosciences, PowerGen, Rolls-Royce, Sanderson Bramall Motor, Total Office Group, Vickers, Williams, Xenova. **Economic statistics:** three months to January housing starts, three months to December new construction orders, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders February new car registrations.

FRIDAY

Interims: Thorntons. **Finals:** Greggs, Limelight Group. **Economic statistics:** fourth-quarter construction output.



Rentokil faces its earnings test

RENTOKIL INITIAL: There may be some questions posed when the "Royal Ratcatcher" publishes final results tomorrow amid signs that its earnings growth is slowing.

A few years ago, Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, put himself on the rack by saying that earnings growth of 20 per cent a year was achievable. He fell just short of the target in the first half and is expected to report only a 17 per cent rise in earnings, to 12.1p per share, this time.

Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £485 million and £505 million, against £437 million last time. Shareholders should be rewarded with a final payout of 3.6p to 3.7p, up from last year's 3.06p.

Suspicions that sales growth has slowed because of Rentokil's diverse geographic exposure are likely to be proved right. This may put pressure on the group to make another big acquisition.

Rentokil almost tripled in size when it paid £2.1 billion for BET in 1996. Although Sir Clive has insisted he sees no need for another big purchase in the next two years or so, industry watchers say that the company could look at deals of about £500 million. Compass Group, Securicor and International Service Systems are tipped as potential targets.

Bolt-on acquisitions seem likelier. Rentokil bought eight hygiene and security companies for £37 million in January, adding £49 million of turnover.

The business split is 30 per cent hygiene, 25 per cent transport, 14 per cent security, 11 per cent property, 11 per cent personnel and 6 per cent pest control.

Paul Morland, of BT Alex Brown, expects profits of £491 million, and looks for a 2 per cent increase in sales, to £2.93 billion.



Sir Clive Thompson may have to fend off some pesky questions about Rentokil's earnings growth

NORWICH UNION: Last week's admission by Legal & General that it was sacrificing margins for market share sent a shudder through life assurers. However, there should be few such fears with Norwich Union, which is the cheapest in the sector, according to BT Alex Brown, the broker. It expects pre-tax profits of £700 million, against £647 million last time. Earnings per share should be up 7 per cent, from 22.1p to 23.7p. The dividend should be up 10 per cent, at 12.8p.

Life profits will be up a tenth, with the domestic market gaining from a high level of maturities of with-profit policies and reasonable investment returns.

POWERGEN: Third-quarter results from PowerGen on Thursday will be the first indication of the sort of cost savings obtainable from its £1.9 billion acquisition of East Midlands Electricity.

The group decided last year to change its year end from March to December, and a substantial deficit appears to be on the cards because of big exceptional items. A pre-tax loss of £215 million to £315 million is forecast, against a £376 million profit for the corresponding period. This will be struck after exceptionals of £500 million to £600 million relating to renegotiation of contracts to take Liverpool Bay gas.

Information will be sought on the sale of 4,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating assets that the group decided to shed to gain regulatory approval to buy East Midlands. The group had originally hoped to get £800 million to £1 billion for the two plants, Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge, but recent speculation suggests that it will receive about £1.5 billion.

BURMAH CASTROL: Final results today are expected to show pre-tax profits of £235 million to £238 million, down from £279.7 million last time, after hits from currency factors and deteriorating markets in Asia and North America in the second half. The full-year dividend should rise from 40½p to 42½p.

The core businesses will have performed creditably, despite some pressure on end markets, with both the chemicals and the lubricants businesses holding up well. The key to events will be any comments on the outlook for main markets in the Far East.

Credit Lyonnais Securities expects profits of £238.1 million and a dividend of 42p.

COOKSON: The group has just completed a review of operations, and its proposals for restructuring and strategy are expected to be announced with final results on Wednesday. The materials technology company has said that "marginally better than expected" trading in the fourth quarter has led it to expect pre-tax profits, before exceptional items and goodwill amortisation, of about £150 million for the year to December 31. That figure was towards the top of the City's range of £138 million to £150 million and compares with £91 million the previous year.

Earnings per share are expected to be 14.4p to 15.7p, against earnings before exceptional items of 18p previously.

Despite Cookson's efforts to emphasise an upturn in fourth-quarter trading, analysts do not expect 1998 to have been a fine year because of shutdowns and destocking in the steel industry.

SG Securities, which expects pre-tax profits of £137.5 million and a 9.5p dividend, says that recent action to cut costs suggests that trading has been difficult.

VICKERS: The group is expected to reveal strategic plans for its defence unit with final results on Thursday. It has forecast pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, of about £55.6 million, against £76.5 million last time. The payout is forecast to stay at 7.2p.

ROLLS-ROYCE: Healthy full-year figures from the aero-engine group are forecast for Thursday. Pre-tax profits before exceptionals are expected to be between £318 million and £325 million, against £276 million a year ago.

A final dividend of 6.5p to 6.6p and earnings per share of 16.3p to 17p are expected.

It will be interesting to see whether the group is on track to meet its target of double-digit earnings growth and whether growth comes from top-line figures or is underpinned by a fall in research costs. At the interim stage, Rolls-Royce partially attributed its 16 per cent rise in profits to a reduction in expenditure.

Development in high-margin after-market sales compared with lower-margin original equipment sales will be watched.

GKN: Full-year pre-tax profits before exceptionals on Wednesday are expected to be £440 million to £455 million, against £406 million a year earlier. The payout should grow from 14.8p to 16.3p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Chances to move rates

Both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank have the opportunity to move interest rates this week. Analysts are divided on whether the Monetary Policy Committee will make yet another cut on Wednesday, but there is a clear consensus that the ECB will not take any action a day later. The recent fall in the euro's value, coupled with interference from Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Finance Minister, has apparently made ECB council members even more determined to keep to 3 per cent "for the foreseeable future".

However, euroland economic data published next week are likely to keep market hopes of a rate cut later in the spring alive. Figures released tomorrow are expected to show the annual rate of eurozone inflation declining from 0.8 per cent to 0.7 per cent in January, although still comfortably within the ECB's 0 to 2 per cent target. Fourth-quarter GDP figures, which are published on Thursday, are likely to confirm that quarterly growth has stalled, although the annual rate of expansion will remain a respectable 2.1 per cent. The money supply data, published today, should also help to reassure the ECB that future inflation pressures remain subdued, with the annual rate of M3 falling from 4.5 to 4.1 per cent in January.

The biggest test for international markets is likely to be on Friday with the publication of the February employment figures. Analysts are forecasting strong growth in non-farm payrolls which will heighten fears that the Federal Reserve is more likely to raise than cut rates in the next few months.

Back home, a normally quiet data week will be enlivened by the publication tomorrow of the average earnings data after an absence of four months. The earnings series was suspended in November after data revisions turned the received wisdom about the path of earnings growth during 1998 on its head, prompting criticism of the Bank of England's analysis. Analysts expect the figures to show that wage growth has eased since the data were suspended.

On Wednesday the Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey will provide the first glimpse of whether the January bounce-back in sales has been sustained.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish & Southern, Calluna, Carlton, Boxmore, Enterprise, Allied London, Axon. *The Mail on Sunday*: Buy First Choice, Aggreko, Gresham Computers, Scotswood Industries. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Southnews, Scoot.com, Beale, Quarto Publishing, Amec, NSB Retail Systems. *The Express on Sunday*: Buy Euro Sales Finance, HC Slingsby, Misys.

Increase in business failures

By Saeed Shah

BUSINESS failure rates continued to rise in Britain last year, in contrast to the rest of Europe, showing that the country remains out of step with the Continent's business cycle.

Britain's distinct business cycle will be one of the key economic barriers to joining the euro, where a single interest rate assumes a broadly synchronised cycle. While European business failures fell on average by 7.8 per cent in 1998, the number of businesses going to the wall in Britain increased last year by 6.2 per cent, according to a survey published today by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

Britain was the only leading Western European economy to register a significant increase in business failures, with the annual tally increasing by more than 2,000 to a rate of about 775 businesses going bust each week.

In Germany, business failures also rose during 1998 but only by about 400 or 1.6 per cent. France saw business failures down 14.3 per cent over 1997, while Italy fell by 18.5 per cent, Sweden was down 20 per cent and Austria enjoyed a 38 per cent fall in failure rates.

A separate Dun & Bradstreet survey, also published today, conducted among 10,000 British and continental businessmen, for the first quarter of 1999, showed that business confidence has fallen to its lowest level for five years. Some 62 per cent of business now expect to increase their sales during the first quarter of 1999, down 3.5 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Philip Mellor, senior business analyst at Dun & Bradstreet, said that Britain's business cycle was 12 to 18 months ahead of Europe. He said that one reason for Britain's different business cycle was the fact that the UK traded to a far greater extent beyond Europe, and so was much more vulnerable to economic conditions elsewhere in the world.

Two head field to buy Keyline from CRH

By Carl Mortished

TRAVIS PERKINS and Wolseley are in the lead to buy Keyline, the £200 million builder's merchants chain, from CRH, the Irish building materials group. Bidding closed late last week; Warburg Dillon Read, which is auctioning Keyline, will shortlist potential buyers.

Keyline will be sold as one business, contrary to reports suggesting that the two favourites would carve it up between them, with Travis Perkins taking the North of England and Scotland branches and Wolseley taking the South East. Other potential buyers include Graham Group, the quoted builder's merchant that was also named as a takeover target, and venture capitalists.

Corporate activity is bubbling in the building materials sector with Scancem, the quoted Scandinavian group, attracting a queue of potential bidders. CRH is thought to be keen to buy Castle Cement, a subsidiary of Scancem which controls 25 per cent of the UK cement market, the largest stake after Blue Circle. CRH will face competition from RMC and Lafarge, the French company.

Scancem's two largest shareholders, Skanska and Aker, which control 75 per cent of the group, have been forced to sell their stake by the competition authorities in Brussels, over concerns about dominance in the Nordic cement market.

CORPORATE PROFILE: CABLE & WIRELESS

THE FACTS

Market cap: £20.53 billion.
Turnover: in 1998 including associates: £8.3 billion.
Pre-tax profits: £2.18 billion.
Employees : 46,550
Business: Cable & Wireless is an international telecommunications and multimedia operator providing services in more than 50 countries including the UK, the US, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan.

THE BOARD

Sir Ralph Robins, 65, chairman after being a non-executive since 1994. He is also chairman of Rolls-Royce and the Defence Industries Council.

Graham Wallace, 50, chief executive, ran Cable & Wireless Communications and is a former finance director of Granada.

Rod Olsen, 53, is executive director for Asia Pacific. He joined Cable & Wireless in 1976. He plans to leave the company soon.

Robert Lerwill, 46, has been executive director, finance, since 1997 and joined Cable & Wireless from the WPP Group where he had been group finance director since 1986.

Linus Cheung, 50, chief executive of Hongkong Telecom, used to be deputy managing director of Cathy Pacific Airways.

Stephen Pettit, 46, executive director, global business, joined Cable & Wireless in 1994 as European managing director from BP. He is also chairman of One-2-One.

The non-executives are: **Winfried Bischoff**, 56, chairman of Schroders; **Janet Morgan**, 52, writer and businesswoman; **David Nash**, 58, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan's food business; and **Raymond Seitz**, 57, vice-chairman of Lehman Brothers and a former US Ambassador to the UK.

This week Graham Wallace is off to Hong Kong. Although in his career he has worked in the US for a couple of years the visit will mark the start of his new international career, as chief executive of Cable & Wireless, the most global of all the would-be dominators of the expanding telecommunications market.

Less than a week into the new job, earned by bashing together Mercury Communications and three cable companies, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Nynex CableComms, Wallace says he has "very clear ideas" about what to do with the company founded 125 years ago to take the electronic telegraph around the world. He is, however, old-fashioned enough to want to share them with his board and staff first.

What is absolutely clear is where the emphasis will be placed and Wallace's role in it.

"This whole area of the Internet and data and what you can do through networks is an area where there is huge potential," he says.

"I think the way the price/value cost equation is coming down we are just scratching the surface," adds Wallace, who spent the central part of his career at Granada Group, first as finance director and then running first the rental division and then restaurants services.

His management expertise therefore encompasses the financial disciplines, the service sector and the importance of brands all topped up by more than a dash of the latest communications technology acquired at CWC, the cable group.

Wallace, a gravelly voiced, dogged, home-spun executive, is in many ways the complete antithesis of his immediate predecessor, Dick Brown, a flamboyant American.

With luck Wallace's appointment will end nine years of management instability at C&W stretching back nine years to the days when Lord Young of Graffham was chairman. The comings and goings have been such that Rod Olsen, who has run the Asia Pacific businesses, and is soon to leave the company to start a new life in Australia, has had to fill in as acting chief executive.

Even though it was always likely that Dick Brown would merely be passing through it is difficult to overestimate Brown's contribution. His plan to raise $1 billion by tidying up a mish-mash of minority interests was a useful start. But it is the $1 billion deal to buy the Internet backbone business of MCI that has helped to create much of the potential that Wallace has inherited.

Today SG Securities will publish a study of Cable & Wireless suggesting that the value of the Internet acquisition needs to be increased by more than £2 billion because of the ferment in Internet stocks.

The plan to spend another $1 billion over five years building a fully intergrated voice, Internet and data super-network linking more than 40 European cities is another part of the jig-saw.

Yet to some extent Brown did the "easy" bits and Wallace faces the much tougher task of implementing the vision and dealing with a remaining knotty series of structural issues that the City, at least, believes will not go away if C&W is to make the full transition from a federation of fairly discrete entities into a fully integrated global player.

The first tricky problem is C&W's 54 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom. The London-based group has successfully negotiated both the handover in 1997 and the opening-up of the market to competition but hopes of an early entry into mainland China seem likely to be frustrated for some time.

With analysts predicting falling revenues in Hong Kong C&W will have to decide whether to play what could be a very long game in China. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggests that it might be sensible to de-couple Hongkong Telecom from the rest of Cable & Wireless so that investors do not have to invest in the future of telecommunications in China whether they like it or not.

Another difficult issue is the ownership of One-2-One, the mobile phone company in the UK, a 50-50 joint venture with MediaOne, the US cable company.

There is a bit of an impasse because both sides would probably like to be a 100 per cent owner, but the likely outcome is a flotation of a minority stake in One-2-One. Wallace sees mobile as part of the group's future as part of the range of delivery mechanisms to bring services to customers and says the relationship is working well. "I wouldn't see it as a pressing problem because it works," says Wallace.

As the former head of CWC Graham Wallace may find himself having to take some urgent decisions about Telewest, one of the other big three cable operators. There is a widespread belief that major Telewest shareholder TCI/AT&T is prepared to sell its stake, and Wallace may have to decide to bid or see the company go to the other major cable player, NTL.

Analysts would also like to see some of the potential US Internet value crystallised with the float of a minority stake in the US Internet business.

Whichever way Wallace jumps on this and other issues what is clear is that the venerable company is once again in the midst of reinventing itself and can justly claim that its reputation as a slumbering giant has already been transformed.

"There are global banks and organisations like Andersen Consulting who are giving us business that three years ago we would not have got because they believe we can provide the packaging that they want around the world," says Olsen.

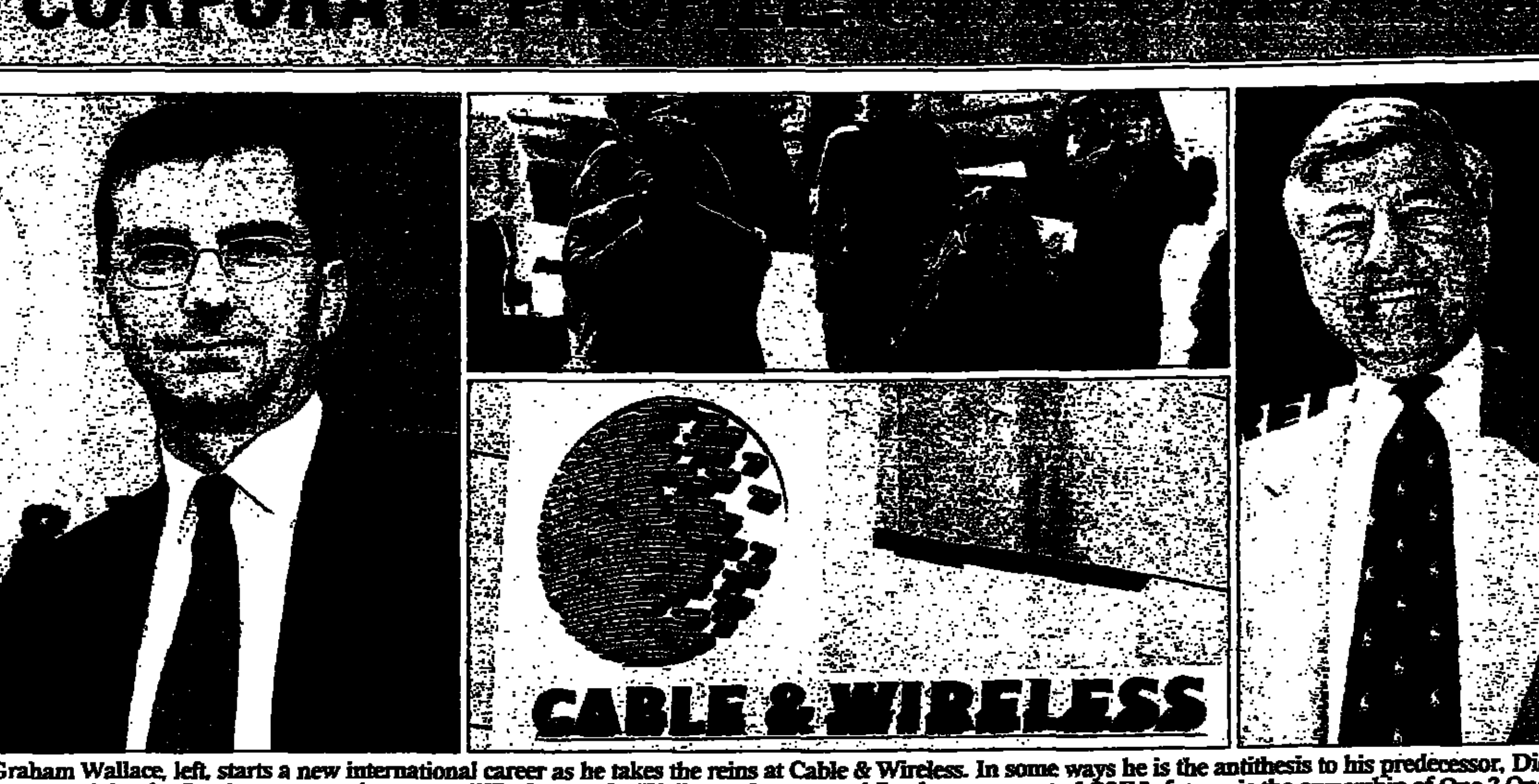
At CWC Wallace spent an enormous amount of money and effort creating a Cable & Wireless Communications brand in the public mind. At first he was worried that the words "cable" and "wireless" were old-fashioned. His children put him right. Cable was associated in their minds with cable television and wireless with trendy cordless communications. So the name Cable & Wireless stays.

It is not known yet how much he will be paid but Dick Brown's 1998 pay would have exceeded £4 million although most was performance-related. According to Crisp Consulting this is double the amount expected for someone of his experience in a FTSE company, although the telecoms sector has special features. The "impressive" non-executives are paid £30,000 a year

Cable & Wireless also scores well on ethical expression. According to Integrity Works, which has acted as advisers to C&W, it has a clear ethics policy which has been communicated to staff through designated staff in each business area.

As he starts to explore his new domain Graham Wallace has set himself the task of turning C&W into one of the world's top telecoms players in five years. He has a long way to go. In the past year C&W has underperformed the telecoms sector in the FTSE 100 by 63 per cent. Its progress will attract the closest scrutiny and if the potential does not turn into reality 125 years of independence could easily come to an end.

RAYMOND SNODDY



Graham Wallace, left, starts a new international career as he takes the reins at Cable & Wireless. In some ways he is the antithesis to his predecessor, Dick Brown, right, the flamboyant American. One difficult issue for Wallace, who sees mobile phones as part of C&W's future, is the ownership of One-2-One

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Cable & Wireless is going to be very strong in Internet-based telephony and this is extremely important. It is in an incredibly strong position relative to its peer group. Dick Brown did what was necessary to restructure the company; now Graham Wallace is a solid pair of hands to run the business."

Jim McCaffery, SG Securities

"Cable & Wireless is a seemingly fabulous collection of telecoms assets but it is still an enigma. The question for Graham Wallace is how to make sense of that collection of assets. He faces three or four big decisions, such as what to do about China and One-2-One. The challenge will be getting the big decisions right."

James Dodd, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson

Ethical expression[1]	7/10
Fat-Cat quotient[2]	7/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	5/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of Brand	7/10
Innovation	8/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	6/10
Future Prospects	9/10
Total	69/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	13.40	AFA Systems	106½	- 3½	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	...	9.2	7.1
157½	93½	6.14	ATA Group	94½	...	2.6	7.4
271	175	37.80	Access Plus	225	+ 20	2.9	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
230	77½	1.68	Crown Eye	105	+ 5	14.9	...
42½	19½	6.02	Dalkeith Ians	29½	...	...	...
287½	125	6.00	Dawn Til Dusk	125	- 5	4.2	9.5

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
400	170	15.10	Deep Sea Leisure	240	...	...	19.0
6¾	2¾	7.03	Dentmaster	4¾	- ¼	3.1	11.6
495	15½	8.75	Desire Petroleum	18½	...	...	50.7
79½	52	7.86	Digital Animin	53½	..	...	...
32½	16½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½	..	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
416	245	18.10	Jennings Bros	245	- 1½	4.3	10.9
4	1¼	2.81	J Lewis Hlord	2	...	6.8	14.7
62½	39½	8.65	Jordec	41	...	..	9.6

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
46½	17½	3.94	Jumbo Intl	20	...	...	...
3	1	6.79	Just Group	1½	...	...	...
42½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	...	...	...
55½	11½	1.29	Keystone Soft	11½	...	...	...
25½	3		Keystone Wts	3	...	...	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
32½	15¾	2.00	Parallel Picts	15¾	- 1¼	...	...
245	220	5.28	Park Ests(Liv)	220	...	5.8	14.8
18½	8½	6.33	Pathfinder Props	9	+ ½	...	5.2
154½	77	9.98	Peel Hotels	153½	...	...	...
21	5½	3.78	Pembertons	7¾	- ½	...	...
183½	91½	8.48	Pennant Intl	128½	...	...	18.9
55½	34½	11.60	Personal No Co	43½	...	...	...
155	58½	20.30	Petra Diamonds	60	...	...	...
122	42	0.73	Petra Dmnds Wt	43½	...	...	...
30½	10½	7.42	Philippine Gd	11	+ ½	...	27.0
62½	10	3.20	Plat Tech	13½	...	11.1	4.5
210½	162½	28.60	Policy Master Grp	202½	...	...	47.0
297½	117½	30.10	PolyDoc	147½	- 5	...	...
151½	43½	9.45	Polymasc Pharms	45	- 1½	...	...

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	...	...	...
1	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	...
16	10½	11.80	Premier Asset Mgt	13½	...	...	10.3
182½	160½	6.20	Premier Direct Grp	167½	+ 3	...	5.4
7	2¾	111.40	Prestbury Group	3¼	- ¼	...	47.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
87	42	2.39	West 175 East	43½	+ 1½	...	...
£145	9500	7.88	West Bromwich	£105	-1000	...	12.1
13½	7¾	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	...	3.8	27.4
4½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	...	...	...
300	17½	1.96	Westmount Engy	17½	...	...	...
85	70	5.95	Wilkington	70	...	8.6	2.9
2¾	2¼	2.45	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
85	55½	11.50	Winchester	85	+ 20½	...	44.5
205	55	16.60	World Telecom	66	- 1½	...	...
150	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.9	16.3
16	5½	15.80	Xavier Comp	16	+ 1¾	...	15.3
88½	51½	3.91	Yeoman	51½	- 4	...	...
7	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	...	...	...

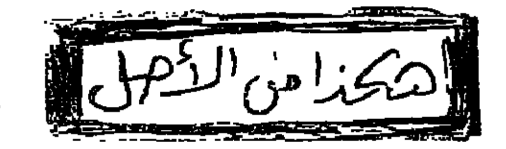
CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar
1.6013 (-0.0282)
Euro
0.6854 (+0.0045)
Exchange index
100.9 (-1.0)
Bank of England oficial close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3760.3 (+90.0)
FTSE 100
6175.1 (+143.9)
New York Dow Jones
9306.58 (-33.37)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14367.54 (+269.50)

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	21.04	19.38
Belgium Fr	61.93	56.97
Canada $	2.536	2.348
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8870	0.8155
Denmark Kr	11.41	10.52
Egypt	5.67	5.06
Finland Mkk	9.21	8.46
France Fr	10.02	9.24
Germany Dm	3.011	2.769
Greece Dr	495	456
Hong Kong $	13.23	12.03
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17800	12800
Ireland Pt	1.2013	1.1123
Israel Shk	6.84	6.18
Italy Lira	2994	2757
Japan Yen	205.93	188.40
Malta	0.665	0.606
Netherlds Gld	3.400	3.105
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.23	12.29
Portugal Esc	304.48	282.45
S Africa Rd	10.53	9.57
Spain Pta	253.78	234.89
Sweden Kr	13.89	12.79
Switzerland Fr	2.469	2.261
Turkey Lira	579877	541394
USA $	1.707	1.564

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



French efforts to cut jobless figures rebound

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French Government's efforts to attack unemployment through a cut in working hours is turning into an expensive fiasco that will handicap French companies, according to new research.

The study shows that, halfway through a two-year programme, the scheme has created just 24,155 jobs. France's Socialist-led Government had hoped that it would create between 400,000 and 700,000 over the period.

But the project is not only inefficient, but also costly. An investigation by the pro-Government news magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, concluded that it could end up costing the state between Fr65 billion (£6.7 billion) and Fr100 billion a year for the forseeable future.

"*This is a figure that makes* the Finance Ministry red with rage," said the magazine.

Analysts say the only benefit from the legislation will be increased flexibility in France's otherwise rigid working practices.

The flagship policy of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Government was once touted as a French response to a French problem — high unemployment . just under three million.

Companies employing more than 200 people were given two years to negotiate a reduction in the working week from 39 to 35 hours with no loss of pay for staff. Smaller firms have twice as long. Employers who meet the timetable are rewarded with tax reductions of Fr5,000 per worker per year.

Croissance Plus, an association that represents blue-chip firms, said the move will add Fr5 million to the costs of the average medium-sized firm, even after state aid of Fr2 million. As a result, most industrialists are doing their best to get round the legislation.

Nowhere was this clearer than in the deal struck by unions representing 1.8 million metal workers and miners with employers such as Renault, the carmaker. The working week decreased by four hours, basic salaries remained the same, and overtime rose. In return, union leaders agreed to flexible working patterns.

BAA says terminal failure will cost £250m

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BAA, the airports operator, will this week put a £250 million price tag on failure to win approval for a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Lawyers for the company will set out the high cost of work already completed on the £1.8 billion project that is running at least five years behind schedule.

BAA will make its final submission to the Terminal Five inquiry, which is entering the last fortnight of its marathon run of almost three years.

The cost of buying land, of designing the building and paying for legal teams at the inquiry has been a huge drain on BAA, which must now wait until at least 2001 before ministers finally decide whether to give the scheme the go-ahead. If successful, BAA hopes to open the terminal in 2006.

In this week's summing-up, David Silsoe, BAA's counsel, will tell the inquiry that the company will accept a legally binding freeze on the number of night flights to try to meet local fears about noise. However, he will reject as unworkable protesters' demands for a total ban on night flights.

BAA, whose chief executive is Sir John Egan, is confident that it could win approval and believe the length of the inquiry has strengthened its case, although the company has some fears that conditions attached to approval could make the project unviable.

Des Wilson, BAA's corporate director, said: "Everything that we warned about at the beginning of the inquiry is now being shown to be true." Congestion at Heathrow, both at the airport and on surrounding roads, is deterring many passengers and some airlines from using the world's busiest international airport.

The massive growth of rival airports at Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris has underlined fears that Britain could lose its pre-eminence as an international link, unless extra capacity is provided. The airport is struggling to cope with its 58 million annual passengers but BAA says an extra terminal would enable it to set a permanent ceiling of 80 million passengers.

The company insists that it would never build a third runway that would allow passenger numbers to surge towards 100 million. Campaigners against the terminal remain unconvinced and have used their final submissions to the inquiry to underline their concerns that an additional terminal will lead to further expansion of the airport and even greater growth than predicted by BAA.

Traffic at Heathrow is growing by just 3 per cent because of the capacity constraints on airlines. That compares with an overall 7 per cent rise in airline traffic for all of BAA's airports, much of which is being generated at Stansted which is accommodating spillover traffic from Heathrow and Gatwick.



Sir John Egan, left, and Russell Walls, BAA finance director, with a model of the fifth terminal

Float looming for Canary Wharf project

BY MARTIN WALLER

CANARY WHARF is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float and to indicate what proportion of the company will be offered to investors.

The decision will boost the troubled property share market, which on Friday received further negative news as BAA cancelled plans to float its property subsidiary, Lynton.

Although Canary Wharf, which owns and developed the London Docklands site, has never confirmed intending to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion.

The final decision is expected to go to the wire, given the current state of the markets. However, it is expected that Canary Wharf will announce a decision and give a guide as to how much of the company will be floated.

Although a float could raise new funds, the main aim will be to offer an exit for the group of investors who bought the company from the banks after its bankruptcy in 1992.

They include Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer who initiated the scheme only to see it bring about the collapse of his business empire. They include Morgan Stanley, Prudential and CNA Financial, two US funds, Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi investor, and Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer who initiated the scheme only to see it bring about the collapse of his business empire.

Canary Wharf has 4.7 million sq ft built, and 2.1 million sq ft under development. The float prospectus is likely to focus more on growth prospects and the further 6.5 million sq ft potentially available on undeveloped land, and the probability of rises in rental levels as tenancies granted when the development was in financial difficulties come up for renewal.

Crucial to a float is the arrival this year of the Jubilee Line extension of the Tube. An attempt to take the project public last year was pulled because of stock market uncertainty.

Grid gets chief at Littlewoods

BY SAEED SHAH

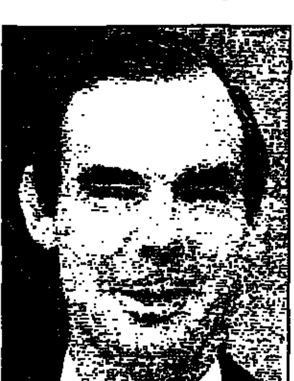
JAMES ROSS, chairman of Littlewoods, the retail group, is to succeed David Jefferies as chairman of National Grid, the electricity network.

Mr Ross, aged 60, will join the National Grid board today and take over as non-executive chairman when Mr Jefferies retires at the company's annual general meeting in July. He will remain non-executive chairman of Littlewoods.

Before joining Littlewoods, Mr Ross was chief executive of Cable & Wireless, from 1992 to 1995. He had earlier been managing director of British Petroleum and chairman and chief operating officer of BP America.

Mr Jefferies said: "James Ross's knowledge of the energy and telecoms sectors, together with his experience in overseas markets, suits him ideally to the group as it expands ... beyond our core UK business."

National Grid last month announced a 50 per cent interest in a Brazilian telecoms consortium, in which it will put up to £200 million over four years.



Ross: overseas experience

Asda ready to fight back in price war

BY SAEED SHAH

ASDA, the supermarket chain, is preparing to deliver a broadside in the latest round of the supermarket price war, with plans for extensive price cuts.

Asda is thought to be responding to an initiative by Tesco, which tried to outmanoeuvre its rivals earlier this month by cutting the prices of hundreds of products. Asda is believed to be preparing a response, which could be unveiled as early as next week.

The Tesco initiative, which covers all its 600 stores, saw the prices of some 240 items reduced by up to 25 per cent. The campaign is thought to be costing Tesco up to £1 million a week in lost revenues.

Asda refused to give any details of its plan over the weekend but it is believed that it will pledge to undercut its rivals permanently and cut the cost of thousands of items.

Price-cutting promotions have increased ahead of the results of the official investigation into competition among the big supermarkets.

The Office of Fair Trading inquiry into profits of the four leading chains, which together control 45 per cent of the £87 billion-a-year grocery market, was due to report before Christmas. It is expected to reveal its decision in the spring, which will determine whether a full-scale inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is appropriate.

Olivetti wins approval for Telecom bid

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

TELECOM ITALIA has been pushed back on to the defensive by Consob, the Italian stock market regulator that has approved Olivetti's £36 billion bid for the telephone utility.

Olivetti's success in winning the opening skirmish in the David v Goliath battle means that Telecom Italia will be unable to put into place poison pills or a restructuring of the business designed to deter Olivetti.

Telecom Italia had indicated its interest in merging its 60 per cent mobile-phone affiliate, TIM, a move that would have put the phone utility beyond the financial reach of Olivetti.

Franco Bernabe, Telecom Italia's chief executive, said: "I don't have any poison pills in my pocket but I have a plan: increasing the value of our company."

Consob gave the go-ahead for Olivetti's tilt at Telecom Italia over the weekend after initially ruling the bid inadmissible. Consob objected to the conditionality of the offer which depends on securing a deal with Mannesmann, Olivetti's German partner, under which Mannesmann would buy Olivetti's share in Omnitel and Infostrada, the fast-growing mobile and fixed-link telecoms businesses.

The Consob decision means that Olivetti's offer must be launched in April. The lengthy interregnum is necessary for Mannesmann to secure approval from the Government for the takeover of the Omnitel and Infostrada licences.

Olivetti failed to increase its offer from €10 (£6.80) per share but the deal approved by Consob includes a five trillion lire (£1.7 billion) cash call by Olivetti and firmer arrangements with Mannesmann.

Both Olivetti and Telecom Italia face a new competitor in the telecoms sector, Wind, a joint venture between Enel, the energy utility, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom which plans to secure up to 1.5 million users in 1999.

Wind launches its service on Monday and claims an advantage over Olivetti and Telecom Italia because it is selling both fixed and mobile services at the same time.

Williams out to rescue its image

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

WILLIAMS, the 1980s-style conglomerate, will this week try to improve its tattered image by highlighting growth in its Australian operations.

It may be Williams's last chance to convince investors that the paints-to-fire extinguishers group can achieve respectable earnings growth and improve a depressed market rating. Its shares have badly underperformed the FTSE 100 over five years and failure to enthuse the City could lead to calls for radical changes and management upheaval. Williams hopes to meet analysts' demands for organic sales growth of up to 10 per cent in its Australian security and fire protection business.

The crucial figure will be given on Thursday in Williams's annual profit result, expected to be in line with City forecasts of £300 million before tax. Williams aims to use the profit report to argue that its move away from manufacturing and into fire protection and security services will deliver earnings growth and a rating closer to a service rather than manufacturing business. It sees its Australian side as a model.



Like Hamlet without the Prince

This week's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is more than usually significant. I do not refer to the likely outcome for interest rates. (which I think will be a further cut of 0.25 percentage point·). but rather to something of wider import. For it will be the first meeting since the publication of the National Changeover Plan, which lays out a path for Britain's preparations for the euro.

Not that the plan said a great deal about monetary policy or the exchange rate, or indeed the MPC. In fact, it said nothing at all about these weighty matters. Funny that. There was a lot about tills and IT requirements but nothing about managing the monetary system itself.

Even so, last week we gained a fascinating insight from a different source. The Governor of the Bank of England was asked about what plans the Bank had for a switch of monetary regime to prepare us for the euro. None, came the answer. Nor had he even talked about the issue with the Chancellor. The MPC's "marching orders" were quite clear — to set interest rates at whatever level was necessary to hit the inflation target.

Nothing wrong with that, you might say. But how is this to be squared with preparing Britain for the euro? If interest rates are to be set to target inflation, then they cannot simultaneously be used to achieve convergence with euroland at an acceptable exchange rate. Of course, maintaining inflation at 2.5 per cent should help to impart some stability to the economy and reduce the likely range of differences with euroland. So, perhaps, if the MPC just carries on targeting 2.5 per cent, everything will be all right — fingers crossed.

But the European average inflation rate is 0.8 per cent, and looking to be heading lower still, compared with our corresponding figure of 1.6 per cent. Meanwhile, our interest rates are nearly twice the euro level. In other words, there is a fair bit of converging yet to be done.

One option, if monetary policy were to play its role in bringing about convergence, would be to raise interest rates, or at least to stop cutting them, so as to force inflation down to the point where we could comfortably live with 3 per cent interest rates. If the Government were pretty confident that our economies were converging anyway, another option might be to move interest rates gradually towards the euro level. But, apparently, we are going



to target 2.5 per cent inflation and hope for the best.

What about the exchange rate itself? At the moment, although the Bank takes the level of sterling into account when setting rates to hit the inflation target, it has no target level for sterling itself, and the pound can and does vary widely. If the Government were to try to establish sterling at some reasonable level before entry and then to keep it there, it would not be able to maintain the existing monetary policy regime.

There could be some sort of hybrid encompassing both an exchange rate and inflation target, but the clearest regime would be one where interest rates were managed so as to keep sterling within a certain range against the euro. If the pound threatened to move outside, then rates would have to be changed to whatever level was necessary to keep the pound there, regardless of the level of British inflation, and regardless of the consequences for the economy. Does this ring a bell? Perhaps if I mentioned the word "scintilla" it would give you a clue.

This policy involves precisely the problem that Britain experienced in the ERM. Indeed, the Maastricht treaty lays down an exchange rate criterion for EMU membership, namely that a candidate currency should have stayed within the bands of the ERM for at least two years without undue strain. For understandable reasons, the British Government rejects this criterion. But it is there for a reason, namely to ensure that the currency alignment which it is proposed to hold "forever" should be workable. That is perfectly reasonable. It is a bit like the benefits of a courtship, as opposed to getting married on the first date.

Moreover, in the case of most of the euro members, their relationship has stronger and deeper roots even than that. France, for instance, has maintained an effectively fixed exchange rate against the mark for more than ten years.

This is not Britain's position. Since the exit from the ERM, the pound has traded at levels between 2.16 against the mark and 3.11. Where *should* it be? It is difficult to be sure. But you would think, wouldn't you, that the Government which proposes to fix it for all time would present us with some sort of mechanism for judging the appropriate rate — not to mention some strategy for getting and keeping it there before the final deed is done?

So you should relish the MPC's decision this Wednesday. Whatever the decision, it will have been taken in regard to an objective set by the British Government in pursuit of British interests.

Moreover, in taking its decision, the MPC will be fully accountable to Parliament. Indeed, the way that it emerged that there was apparently no transition planning on monetary policy was richly ironic. It emerged as the Governor was being questioned by the Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Any member of the public could go to that meeting and hear the MPC obliged to account for its actions by democratically elected representatives of the people. That is precisely what cannot happen with the ECB — even in Frankfurt, Strasbourg or Brussels.

Prospectors beat a path to Africa's new streets of gold

Cash-strapped producers are setting sights on liberalised Tanzania to cut their costs, writes **Rachel Bridge**

For almost 40 years Tanzania has been virtually a closed book to the world's international goldmining giants, thanks to a socialist regime, sweeping nationalisation and the shunning of foreign investors. The tiny amounts of gold ore that did get taken out of the ground were dug out by small-scale artisanal miners scratching out a living in remote corners of the Tanzanian scrub.

But the stage has been set for a dramatic revival of the mining sector as Tanzania finally opens its doors for business to foreign investors following a series of economic reforms.

In the past year alone the Tanzanian Government has introduced a number of key changes for foreign gold producers, including a new mining code, a fiscal package specifically for mining that does not require companies to give the State a stake in the venture — formerly it took a mandatory 10 per cent stake — and a new investment code which exempts foreign firms from import duty on equipment and sales tax and allows profits to be repatriated.

The surge of interest in Tanzania has also been prompted by the goldmining industry's increasingly desperate search for ever-lower cost production in an effort to withstand the effects of the historically weak gold price.

According to the World Gold Analyst, the weighted average cash cost of extracting gold fell by 20 per cent from $264 per oz (£165) in June 1996 to just $210 per oz in 1998 as companies strived to remain profitable while the gold price dropped to as low as $275.

Andrew Howard, gold mining analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "There is a big drive for low-cost production. Any mining company will tell you that their emphasis is on having low-cost assets. The big question is whether you bring on lower-cost mines than everyone else — and that is obviously what they think they can do in Tanzania."

Last month the tiny village of Lusu in the northwest corner of Tanzania played host to the country's President, Benjamin Mkapa, and several hundred local dignitaries to celebrate the opening of the $48 million Golden Pride mine, Tanzania's first large-scale goldmine since independence in 1961.



Golden Pride, Tanzania's first big goldmine since independence in 1961, opened last month

Greeted by local dancers and musicians in brightly dressed costumes, the opening of the mine, a 50-50 joint venture project between Ashanti Goldfields and Resolute, the Australian mining company, is the first of what is expected to be a raft of foreign investment-backed goldmining projects starting up in Tanzania.

Following hard on the heels of the Golden Pride project are three other big foreign-owned goldmining ventures set to begin production next year: Ashanti's huge proposed mine at Geita; the Bulyankulu mine in Kahama District being developed by the Canadian mining company Sutton Resources; and the Australian mining company Afrika Mashariki Gold Mines' 130,000-ounce gold project in Tarime District. Other overseas goldminers are also running a slide rule over the place — feasibility studies are under way by South Africa's Anglo-American Corporation, while Placer Dome, Maiden Gold, Ormonde Mining, Universal Gold and Kimberly Resources are all spending significant amounts on exploration.

The figures tell the story — while total worldwide gold exploration expenditure dropped by 40 per cent from $2.61 billion in 1997 to just $1.56 billion in 1998, mineral exploration expenditure in Tanzania has steadily climbed the other way, jumping from $6 million in 1992 to more than $80 million in 1997 and expected to reach $200 million by 2000.

Peter Cowley, managing director of Exploration at Ashanti, says the combination of good mineral prospects and government reforms have turned Tanzania into an extremely attractive destination. He said: "At present in terms of exploration for gold, Tanzania is the number one country in Africa. The growth in African gold production is coming from Tanzania and if anybody wants to explore in Africa they will be trying to get a position there. A big catalyst is that the Government has improved the physical code greatly to encourage foreign investment in the mining sector. And geologically Tanzania is favourable because the rocks are very similar to the big provinces of Western Australia."

Ashanti, based in Ghana, moved into Tanzania in 1996 with the purchase of the Geita property from Cluff Resources. And last year it sharply expanded the size of the proposed mine there with the acquisition of Samax Gold, whose Kukuluma licences were adjacent to the Geita site, and so have enabled Ashanti to develop the two properties as a single giant mine, scheduled to produce 400,000 ounces a year.

Mr Cowley said the Geita mine would operate on a cash cost of production of just $170 an ounce compared with Ashanti's average cash costs of production of $218. The Golden Pride project is expected to produce an annual average of 180,000 ounces of gold at a cash cost of less than $200 per ounce. Mr Cowley said: "In today's market you have to have low cash costs. We are all lowering our costs just to keep up with each other. If you can't get your costs down then you won't survive."

Gerard Holden, global head of mining and metals at Barclays Capital, the lead syndicate banker on the Golden Pride project, said that Tanzania has three factors working in its favour: outside South Africa it is one of the top three countries in Africa in terms of gold mineralisation prospectivity; it has seen big changes in its mining law; and it has not been affected by huge amounts of conflict. He explained: "You start to see a fairly rosy picture. The whole goldmining sector in Tanzania could significantly change the country's economic performance. Within five years they could be producing a million and a half ounces of gold a year which would put them quite significantly on the map."

Tanzania has a long history of goldmining dating back to the turn of the first millennium when Arabs settled on the east coast to purchase the gold produced by African workers. The first commercial mines were developed in 1909 by German colonists after the discovery of gold in the Lake Victoria area, and by 1939 gold was one of Tanzania's biggest exports.

The late 1960s and 1970s, however, saw a steep decline in production, and the industry virtually ground to a halt, with just 84 ounces sold in 1975 as the country pursued a policy of *ujamaa* — African socialism — under Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's first President.

The Tanzanian Government confidently expects a gold boom in the next two years. Opening the Golden Pride mine, President Mkapa said: "There is a boom in mineral exploration in the country for gold, base metals, diamonds and uranium, despite the current low prices in the market. That speaks a lot for the quality and abundance of our resources."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 31

HARMONIAN
(a) One versed in harmony or music; a musician. A word constructed from *harmony* copying *musician*. Holland, *Plutarch's Moralia*, 1603: "Lasus the harmonian brought a greate change into musicke."

JULIENNE
(c) A soup made of various vegetables, especially carrots, chopped and cooked in meat broth. 1722, presumably a kitchen eponym from a cook named *Jules* or *Julien*.

KIST
(c) A chest, box or coffer. In Scotland the specific form for a servant's trunk. "The instances where an organ — or a kist o' whistles, as this noble instrument has been termed — has gained favour in a Scottish congregation, are exceptional."

HANDSEL
(b) To give handsel (to a person); to present with, give or offer, something auspicious at the commencement of the year or day, the beginning of an enterprise.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Bc1! Threatening 2 Qh6+ Qh7 3 Bb2+ leaves Black with no good defence, e.g. 1 ... Qg7 2 Bb2! Qxb2 3 Qh6 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

Trouble in the East

Shanghai Vice: Betrayal
Channel 4, 9pm

The second film in Phil Agland's seven-part series about contemporary China continues the main storyline: the police attempt, via an informer, to set up a drugs bust to catch a Muslim dealer from Canton. A new theme added tonight is the rehearsals by the Children's School of the Shanghai Opera for a production of a traditional Chinese opera about betrayal. This almost too neat counterpoint (after all, the drug-dealer and his minions hardly equate with the wronged wife in the opera) makes it a less satisfactory film than the first, shown last night, but it is still mesmerising and compelling. One might find it impossible to imagine that a Chinese film-maker would be allowed the apparently complete access to British police operations and the prison service which Agland has enjoyed from the authorities in Shanghai.

A heroin dealer is arrested in the second episode of *Shanghai Vice* (Channel 4, 9pm)

Tribe
BBC2, 11.15pm

The producer, Gerard Barry, describes this documentary series about groupings among Britain's under-25s as "not another patronising, late and embarrassing TV attempt to get to 'the kids'". God forbid we should pass judgment. Given adolescents' tendency to exaggerate to any adult willing to let them brag about their behaviour, one might hope that those sequences of these short films which show criminal or merely antisocial behaviour are fantasy rather than fact. But under-age drinking, drug-taking, vandalism, dangerous driving and loutishness are facts of life. There are also less disruptive, if no less contentious subjects, including "coming out" in Northern Ireland.

To the Ends of the Earth: The Battle for Titanic
Channel 4, 8pm

John Peel narrates this quite surprising account (given our exposure to the subject) of how the wreck of the *RMS Titanic* was discovered, fought over and exploited. It is a tale of deceit and spin-doctoring (at every level from the US Navy down to individuals), litigation and cack-handedness, which leaves virtually all of those involved under suspicion of, at best, moral and ethical ambiguity. The most astonishing aspect may be that, with the wreck still virtually un-protected, those who have made the most capital out of a mass grave and the scene of a maritime disaster show no sign of recognising that this is the case.

Births, Marriages and Deaths
BBC2, 9pm

If the first of Tony Grounds's three-part series was slightly over the top, part two is so far over that it is coming back up the other side. The three lifelong friends (Ray Winstone, Phil Davis and Mark Strong) have apparently survived the problems raised by their "stag" outing, and Strong's new wife has had a healthy baby. Winstone, richer and brasher than ever, gives the others jobs with his own company, but Davis discovers that his idolised wife (Tessa Peake-Jones) fell pregnant while at school, and Winstone's schoolgirl daughter is arrested for trespassing with Davis's dropout son. Then an even nastier accident occurs. Whatever next? **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Classic Newsnight
Classic FM, 6.30pm

The fine print of the last audience research figures contained a couple of interesting items, including the fact that 658,000 people are now listening, at some point during the week, to this programme. *Classic Newsnight*, not to be confused with anything related to Jeremy Paxman, deserves a listen for it is a smooth and comprehensive review of the day's news with a couple of feature items thrown in, including a CD review by Richard Baker and a health slot presented by Dr Mark Porter, the telegenic GP. But the key figure is the presenter, John Brunning, who brings exactly the right tone of measured calm to a programme area increasingly dominated, elsewhere, by high-profile presenters. Brunning is simply good.

Silent Sentence
Radio 4, 8pm

This is the second in an excellent series by Peter White about what happens to families when one of their number is put in prison. Tonight's programme meets people whose sons or daughters have been jailed and, as with last week's opener about the effect on a marriage of one partner being jailed, we hear from truly heroic people: heroic in the sense that they have suffered heartbreak without imposing their pain on others. Stan Gregory and his wife Doreen, whose daughter Sandra was convicted of heroin trafficking in Thailand, describe how they had to stop having any contact with the people around them, not through any lack of support but because Doreen simply could not take the sympathy. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Stereophonics, and a special feature on the making of new Underworld album **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Juliet Morris **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland (5/13) **9.30** Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll (6/10) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Annie Webster **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Dream Teams. Alastair Campbell chooses his favourite Burnley players **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Leicester City v Leeds United. Commentary on the Premiership game at Filbert Street **10.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anne Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Russ Williams **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** This Woman Thing **7.45** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** *Britain Today* **10.45** *The Farming World* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** *Multitrack: Hit-List* **5.00** *Europe Today* **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Warm World **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Warm World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Mozart (Clarinet Concerto) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Classic Newsnight. *John Brunning presents the latest stories. See Choice* **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet), Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music introduced by Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Mozart (Clarinet Concerto) (r) **3.00** *Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show*

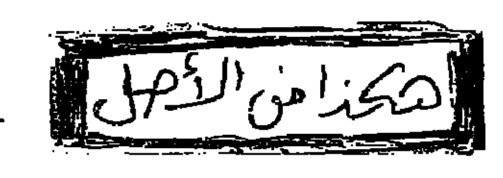
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Music and arts news with Petroc Trelawny, including a review of Copland's *El salon Mexico* conducted by Martyn Brabbins in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Handel (Overture: Ariodante); Bach, reconstr Schneider (Concerto in C minor for violin and oboe, BWV1060); Bach (Erbarme dich, St Matthew Passion); Busoni, arr Adams (Berceuse elegieque); Schubert (Piano Sonata in G, D894)
10.30 Artist of the Week The Dutch conductor Bernard Haitink talks to Joan Bakewell
11.00 Sound Stories: Family Affairs Peggy Reynolds remembers the early-music dynasty founded by Arnold Dolmetsch
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Joan Rodgers, soprano, Julius Drake, piano. Poulenc (Fiancailles pour rire); Faure (Le jardin clos); Rosenthal (4 plus 3 7; L'elephant du jardin des plantes; La souris d'Angleterre; Fido)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Rumon Gamba and Vassily Sinaisky. John Lill, piano. Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Selena Kay (Queen of the Night); Saint-Saens (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor); Sibelius (En Saga; Symphony No 1)
4.00 Opera in Action with Robert Lloyd
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty. Includes Mozart (Bassoon Concerto in B flat, K191)
7.30 Performance on 3: Myths in Music Beginning a Monday concert season: Jean Rigby, mezzo, BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes. Bax (Tintagel); Bantock (Sappho) **8.20** Francesca da Rimini. Joseph Farrell explores the life and death of the adulteress **8.40** Prokofiev (Suite: Egyptian Nights); Tchaikovsky (Francesca da Rimini)
9.35 Postscript: Cultural Nationalism A week of programmes exploring the ancient and continuing association of the arts with nation-building
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside presents the second of two programmes featuring the baritone Simon Keenlyside with Malcolm Martineau, piano, recorded last month at the Wigmore Hall
10.45 Mixing It Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present a mix of musical styles and influences
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents a musical tribute to Stephane Grappelli
12.00am Composer of the Week: Aaron Copland (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Abegg Trio: Beethoven (Piano Trio in E flat, Op 70 No 2); Henze (Chamber Sonata) **2.20** Rautavaara (Regular Sets of Elements) **2.35** Beethoven (*Eroica Variations*) **3.00** *Schools: Music Box* **3.15** Something to Think About **3.30** EAL: Let's Make a Story **3.45** Stories and Rhymes **4.00** Find Out **4.15** Maths Challenge **4.30** Hopscotch **4.45** Scottish Resources 7-9 **5.00** Bach (Fantasie, BWV922) **5.05** Telemann (Sonata in A)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Zarafa Part one. Andrew Sachs reads the story of a giraffe given to the king of France in 1826 which won the hearts of the nation
9.45 (LW) Daily Service A St David's Day service from Albany Road Baptist Church in Cardiff. Director of music Andrew Wilson-Dickson
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 Tuning into Children Kirsty Wark looks at how children develop a sense of gender (3/6)
11.30 The King of Bath Second of a six-part comed
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories with Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Semi-final of the general knowledge music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: High in the Clouds Don Haworth's humorous story about the impact of the Second World War on a small Lancashire community. Starring Stephen Thorne, Christian Rodska and Brigit Forsyth
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial issues
3.30 First Nights Life-changing moments, beginning with a couple who waited until they were married before sleeping together (1/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 41 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Simon Parkes investigates the new Food Standards Agency's aims and agenda (r)
4.30 Turning World with Jenni Murray and guests
5.00 PM Presented By Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Tony Hawks, Derek Nimmo, Graham Norton and Linda Smith try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation at the Sheffield Lyceum
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson talks to the former Yes keyboard player Rick Wakeman
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama by Tim Jackson, starring Rachel Atkins. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Silent Sentence Peter White investigates the repercussions of crime on the perpetrator's family. See Choice (2/3)
8.30 Analysis Ian Hargreaves examines ways in which the Government could learn from private sector management models
9.00 Nature Howard Stableford explores the environmental impact of ocean currents such as El Niño
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Rises John Sharian reads the first part of Hemingway's novel
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Nicholas Parsons speaks on behalf of the British Stammering Association (r)
11.02 Fear on 4: Tissue Memory Judy Upton's drama about a heart transplant patient. With Rachel Atkins, Kim Wall and John Rowe (r)
11.30 (FM) Airs of England Richard Coles talks to Dave Townsend (3/4) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Five Stories by Anton Chekhov Alistair McGowan reads *An Incident*, the first of five tales by Chekhov (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. **RADIO 1.** FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.5[illegible]). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**



Quick fix supplied by Bodge and Scarper

REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

Bewailing the overabundance of fly-on-the-wall documentaries has become as quixotic as complaining about bull-bars or middle-aged men wearing baseball caps.

We had two new examples this weekend: **The Builders** (BBC1, Friday) and **Shanghai Vice** (Channel 4, Sunday). Both, in their way, broke new ground, *Shanghai Vice* because of the candour of the footage which Phil Agland has obtained from one of the most secretive societies in the world.

We followed the life of Miss Tang, a young medic who has moved to this throbbing city from the country. Shanghai was opened to the world three years ago. The colonial waterfront evokes Liverpool, the skyscrapers behind evoke Hong Kong. Tang goes everywhere with her landlady Mrs Feng, a Chaucerian widow, 65 and still chasing a good sex life.

Most of the material, however, features the Shanghai police, struggling to dam up a flood of heroin, brought into the city by impenetrable cliques of disaffected Muslims from the northwest provinces. Their methods are direct and brutal, and they don't care who knows it, apparently. They have not yet learnt how to manipulate television and are consequently fascinating to watch.

My only regret is that, because Shanghai people speak very fast, and because it is harder to pick up signals from their unfamiliar intonation and gestures, you rely entirely on the subtitles which fly by so quickly that you hardly have time to ponder the images.

The Builders was groundbreaking in two senses. First literally — two of the outfits concerned dug up plots of grass to lay foundations for a new bungalow and a rear extension. More importantly, however, the programme has raised the docusoap to a previously unexplored level of pointlessness.

Overworked, overextended and overwrought as it is, this genre can still offer some perverse pleasure. There will be a character so dismal, an egomaniac so irritating, that their mundane tergiversations take on a distasteful fascination. They offer the viewer a few drops of a drug as insidiously addictive as nicotine, cocaine or krispy corn-'n'-potato snax, namely a vague sense of superiority.

If like me, you see Jim, the annoying Gretna Green "blacksmith" on *Love Town*, as a bit of a prat, it follows that you yourself feel less of a prat by comparison. That feeling, though psychologically fattening, is undoubtedly "moreish". Take it away and there is not much left.

The Builders sets out to redress the bad reputation of Britain's builders by presenting us with a range of hard-working, chirpy, slightly roguish but loveable chaps from around the country. They are like characters from an updated Ealing comedy, always ready with their cheeky smiles and, above the back of their jeans, their smiley cheeks, always chasing another cuppa, darlin'.

They are, we are led to believe, friendly, honest and competent. The main point of interest seems to be that they evoke chortling lust in the women they work for. Otherwise we are just watching a bunch of guys drinking tea, laying concrete, grumbling that the free croissants are cold, knocking a wall down, building a wall up and drinking more tea.

But the bad reputation of the building trade didn't just arrive in the post, like a misdirected parking fine. The nation's builders have made strenuous efforts over many decades to earn it, and it should not be thrown away in this cavalier fashion.

I now have a wonderful builder, I am relieved to say, but only after years of suffering the catalogue of bodging, procrastination, false estimates, flannelling, lack of consideration and downright deceit that most punters experience from most builders most of the time.

To add insult to injury, the perpetrators are usually cocky know-alls who genuinely believe that their unreliability, sharp-practice and inability to cut anything to size represents the height of craftsmanship. If we must have a docusoap on this national disgrace, why can't we follow a bunch of these Jack-the-lads, patting themselves on the back as they mess up innocent people's homes.

The horrible behaviour of a cowboy builder who once "converted" the house next door to our old home caused me to have elaborate fantasies involving his torture, mutilation and death. Many builders would make particularly gratifying victims for a series like **Murder Most Horrid** (BBC2, Friday).

Because the stories are "one-offs" the quality is variable, but that is also the show's strength. You never know quite what to expect, although you can usually rely on a deliciously observed bit of character acting from Dawn French. It is not just that she has such a gift for faintly absurd mannerisms, but that she enacts them with such relish.

Frozen, last week's opener about two greedy prewar spinsters with a huge early model freezer, was a delightful bit of pastiche. The script consisted almost entirely of silly double-entendres of the type found on old seaside postcards, but inventive and daft enough to avoid *Carry On* crassness.

This week *Going Solo* with French and Sarah Lancashire as round-the-world yachtswomen, wasn't quite as chortlesome. There was a nifty bit of plotting, with those Agatha Christie reprises where the same scenes are shown twice from different characters' points of view, but the twist was still predictable. French turned in another virtuoso performance as a fantastically irritating sailing companion, and the show went some way to make good the damage left by *The Builders*.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (78352)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (90401)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (2924739)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (7475401)
10.55 News; Regional News (T) (3466265)
11.00 Change That (3476642)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3446401)
11.55 News; Regional News (T) (7331739)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (85420)
12.30 Wipeout (4907197)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53041197)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (62648)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (59963772)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (35003130)
2.05 Ironside (r) (5224975)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (6966410)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6860772) **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop (5415623) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (9145555) **4.10** Pocket Dragon Adventures (6397449) **4.20** Anthony Ant (6133371) **4.35** Misery Guts (3444975) **5.00** Newsround (4109401) **5.10** Blue Peter (9803888)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (836555)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (97)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (59)
7.00 This is Your Life (T) (3284)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck (T) (1)
8.00 EastEnders Simon is suicidal (T) (9604)
8.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm Plucky Malcolm decides to teach the local big head a lesson (2/6) (T) (8739)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News (T) (3265)
9.30 Animal Police (T) (30468)
10.00 Panorama A report on the British gynaecologist Dr Richard Neale, who came back to work in this country after being struck off the Canadian medical register for incompetence (T) (651246)



Billy Connolly takes his bike for a ride across Australia (10.45pm)

10.45 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia Billy visits Canberra, Botany Bay and Sydney (r) (T) (812555)
11.25 Harbour Lights Mike is alarmed by the behaviour of a Falklands veteran (r) (T) (326468)
12.15am Bandolero! (1968) FILM Two outlaw brothers go on the run in the aftermath of a disastrous bank hold-up. Western adventure, with James Stewart. Directed by Andrew V McLaglen (T) (286598)
1.55 Weather (1767685)
2.00 BBC News 24 (3170043)

WALES:

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (59) **10.00 Labour of Love** (T) (93449) **10.30 Panorama** (T) (547739) **11.15 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (r) (T) (698197) **11.55 Harbour Lights** (r) (T) (659333) **12.45am FILM: Bandolero!** (T) (203640) **2.25 News Headlines** (T) (9032111) **2.30-6.00 BBC News 24** (4183173)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7835420) **7.05** Teletubbies (5586820) **7.30** Snorks (8797333) **7.50** Blue Peter (3805604) **8.20** Taz-Mania (5493994) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (1441642) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (1447826) **9.00** Space Ark (7069642) **9.10** Short Circuit (4791517) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (8180623) **9.45** Storytime (8185178) **10.00** Teletubbies (94739) **10.30** Words and Pictures (9620352) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (9625807) **11.00** Look and Read (3646352) **11.20** Zig Zag (3593352) **11.40** Landmarks (8974333) **12.00pm** Job Bank (4407401) **12.10** History File (5679130) **12.30** Working Lunch (18246) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (68360772)
1.10 The House Detectives (r) (41108468)
1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35024623)
2.10 Awash with Colour (56884772)
2.40 News; Regional News (T) (3638062)
2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4015536)
3.25 News; Regional News (T) (4165888)
3.30 The Village (r) (9805420)
3.55 Kaye Open relationships (9820739)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6509284)
4.55 Esther (T) (5584265)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (36)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (T) (134975)
6.15 The Simpsons Lisa and Bart write a script for a TV show (T) (777604)
6.40 Space 1999 (r) (T) (917062)
7.30 Rough Guide to the World Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis explore the city of Cairo (2/6) (T) (3)
8.00 Raising the Roof Report on how leaseholders could have their rights taken away from them should someone buy their home's freehold (6/6) (T) (7246)
8.30 Food and Drink (T) (9081)
9.00 CHOICE **Births, Marriages and Deaths** Graham stumbles across a secret which has been kept from him for 25 years (2/4) (T) (574197)
9.55 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (808449)
10.00 If I Ruled the World With Pauline McLynn and Hugh Dennis (84791)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (538081)



A film presenting an intriguing look at the youth of Britain (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE **Tribe UK** New series offering insights into the lives of young people in Britain today (T) (696739)
11.55 Weather (845333)
12.00am Despatch Box (39531)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University The Authentick and Ironicall Historie of Henry V **1.30** What Was Modernism? **2.00** Schools Music — Marsalis on Music Talent 2000 Shorts **4.00** Discovering Portuguese/Portuguese Discovered **5.00** Business and Training. Skills for Work **5.45** Open University Copernicus and His World **6.10** Humanity and the Scaffold **6.35** Musee d'Orsay

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (14642)
6.00 GMTV (5188197)
9.25 Trisha (T) (8310826)
10.30 This Morning (T) (44925420)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (4413062)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (93212)
1.00 Shortland Street (28284)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (37371)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5717888)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (205265)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4156130)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4186371)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4176994) **3.35** Kipper (9136807) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (9149371) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5872130) **4.20** It's a Mystery (5898178) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (3468555)
5.10 WEST: Getaways (r) (T) (7268265)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners (T) (7268265)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (441536)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (776975)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (882771)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (218178)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (5)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (817081)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Melinda Messenger visits Greece, Jamie Theakston goes skiing in the Swiss Alps and Cleo Rocos explores Naples, while Anthea Turner treks through the Himalayan foothills (T) (8352)
7.30 Coronation Street (T) (9)
8.00 Undercover Customs (T) (4772)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes Carol and her team of handymen take their tools to Port Sunlight on the Wirral (9/10) (T) (3807)



Amanda Burton stars in the climax of the tense thriller (9pm)

9.00 Forgotten Dexter realises Ben saved his life, but that doesn't stop him from telling the police about his past — and soon the whole village knows a child killer is living among them. (3/3) (T) (3517)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (88517)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (828246)
10.40 WEST: Nash Bridges (T) (653739)
10.40 WALES: Mike Doyle and Friends (T) (653739)
11.40 WALES: Nash Bridges (T) (759772)
11.40 Swift Justice (r) (759772)
12.40am Football Extra (1311424)
1.40 World Football (r) (1057111)
2.10 The Raven (1963) FILM Roger Corman's horror spoof about a deadly feud between two 15th-century sorcerers. Starring Vincent Price and Boris Karloff. Directed by Roger Corman (2404666)
3.40 Trisha (r) (T) (2183666)
4.40 ITV Nightscreen (59706111)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T)(24260)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (7651130)
1.00 High Road (28284)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6132739)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (206994)
3.20-3.25 Central News (4186371)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7268265)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (218178)
10.30-10.40 Central News (828246)
11.40 The Big Match (719771)
12.10-12.40am Short Story Cinema (3047043)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '99 (2614802)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3708314)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4413062) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (7676449) **1.00 High Road** (T) (28284) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (6132739) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (206994) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4186371) **5.08 Birthday People** (4165212) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7268265) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (13791) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (828246) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (759772)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4413062) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7268265) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (75) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (T) (5) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (828246) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (759772) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (24260)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7670265) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7651130) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (7268265) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (421913) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (500536) **6.50-7.00 Take It On** (540807) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (965468) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (828246) **11.40 The Big Match** (719771) **12.10am-12.40 Tales from the Crypt** (3047043)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (20554642) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67246401) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (99533994) **9.25 Schools at Work** (29174826) **9.30 Geography Junction** (74434197) **9.45 Book Box** (74422352) **10.00 Ble Ar Y Ddaear?** (91287536) **10.15 Scotscapes** (91277159) **10.30 Place and People** (51998420) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (60515979) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (15340468) **11.15 The Mix** (15323791) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (r) (T) (68698081) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (97484449) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (26202994) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (67256888) **1.30 Classic British Cars** (1/8) (T) (26201265) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (73323081) **3.00 Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan** (2/4) (T) (90560772) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (67572772) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (67591807) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (67580791) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90572517) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67504371) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93820604) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86310807) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90585081) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67581420) **8.00 Can I Gymru** (T) (37723994) **10.00 Sgorio** (T) (54072420) **11.05 Father Ted** (T) (88858994) **11.35 Rising Damp** (T) (92638159) **12.05am Rural Rides** (T) (30224024) **1.05 In Search of Law and Order** (3/3) (T) (33581463) **2.05 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4645994)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23739)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (1673587) **9.25** Schools at Work (8238536) **9.30** Geography Junction (8175791) **9.45** Book Box (8170246) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9387284) **10.15** Scotscapes (9377807) **10.30** Place and People (1924130) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (8294401) ***11.00*** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (3584604) **11.15** The Mix (3507555)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (7468)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (78130)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (36642)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (26826)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (r) (35030284)
1.55 English Without Tears (1944) FILM An aristocratic belle falls for her butler but the course of true love never runs smoothly. Comedy, starring Penelope Ward. Directed by Harold French (T) (75622710)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (33)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (8)
4.30 Countdown (T) (3461642)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (5579333)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (84)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (17)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (7)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (577997)
7.55 The 1999 Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize (T) (951284)
8.00 CHOICE **To the Ends of the Earth** In 1985, the Titanic was discovered on the bed of the icy North Atlantic ocean where it sank in 1912. Since then a bitter battle has raged in the US courts over what should become of the ill-fated passenger liner (2/6) (T) (4623)
9.00 CHOICE **Shanghai Vice** Continuing the documentary focusing on crime in the city of Shanghai (2/7) (T) (1159)



Christian Slater stars as the cult radio hero (10pm)

10.00 Pump Up the Volume (1990) FILM A shy, discontented student overcomes his inhibitions and starts a pirate radio station. Teen drama, directed by Allan Moyle (T) (872554)
11.55 Shooting Gallery Introduction (830401)
11.56 Fetch (830401)
12.00am Surf's Up! (6432173)
12.10 Inbetween (2598111)
12.30 Mrs Buchan (1808956)
12.45 More is Less (5285685)
1.10 Dispatches (r) (T) (9217937)
1.40 Powerhouse (r) (1055753)
2.10 Right to Reply (r) (T) (9637314)
2.35 Rural Rides (r) (4871208)
3.30 Seven Days Under Mavis (r) (73173)
4.00 Schools: Auf Deutsch 14-19 (320314) **5.40** Schools at Work (4024869)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (3103082)
7.00 WideWorld Part seven. Children's often difficult transition into formal education (r) (T) (8352555)
7.30 Milkshake! (2877081)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r), 5 News Update (4856710)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2079333)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (2078604)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (8260771)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4638352)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9530951)
10.20 Sunset Beach Cole goes on the offensive (T) (3825994)
11.10 Leeza (8349053)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (2072420)
12.30 Family Affairs Pete is furious with Claire (r) (T); 5 News Update (1450642)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Michael fights her feelings (T) (23105826)
1.25 The Roseanne Show With actress Jennifer Tilly (r); 5 News Update (1395913)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9338642)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums*, Eric Knowles with *Selling the Family Silver* and word game *Cryptogram*; 5 News Update (1936130)
3.30 The Punch and Judy Man (1962) FILM Downbeat comedy drama, starring Tony Hancock as a seaside entertainer whose hatred of snobbery ruins the local mayor's gala celebrations. With Sylvia Syms. Directed by Jeremy Summers (T) (2590587)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T), 5 News Update (3909420)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (2672623)
6.30 Family Affairs Claire wakes up battered and bruised (T) (2663975)
7.00 5 News; Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (9309130)
7.30 Champions of Nature Efforts to protect the polar bear's fragile natural habitat, currently endangered by pollution (T); 5 News Update (2669159)
8.00 Instant Gardens Jac Flower continues her transformation of Melinda Messenger's country garden by commissioning a stonemason and an artist to build a pagan statue (4/14) (T) (9325178)
8.30 Animal ER The vets help release a pregnant mare entangled in barbed wire (3/6) (T); 5 News Update (9337913)
9.00 All She Ever Wanted (TVM 1995) FILM Powerful drama, starring Marcia Cross as a woman suffering from a debilitating medical condition who rejects medical advice in her determination to become a mother. Directed by Michael Scott (T) (81437197)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update Pop hits (8681159)
10.55 V The aliens attempt to steal the Earth's water supply (r) (36167604)
12.50am Live and Dangerous Day four of the Winter X Games (65422482)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7363482)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8044289)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula [illegible] **7.30** The Simpsons [illegible] **8.00** The Simpsons [illegible] **8.30** Hollywood Squares (23604) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (40381) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (68820) **11.00** [illegible] **12.00pm** Jenny Jones [illegible] **1.00** Mad About You (59178) **1.30** [illegible] **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael [illegible] **3.00** Jenny Jones [illegible] **4.00** [illegible] **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager [illegible] **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals [illegible] **6.30** Friends [illegible] **7.00** The Simpsons [illegible] **7.30** The Simpsons [illegible] **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine [illegible] **9.00** First Wave [illegible] **10.00** South Park [illegible] **10.30** Seinfeld [illegible] **11.00** Friends [illegible] **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager [illegible] **12.30am** The Commish [illegible] **1.30** Long Play [illegible]

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
The Postman (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Good Will Hunting (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Good Burger (1997)
As Good as It Gets (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 53)
The Edge (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Things Change (1988) [illegible] **7.40** Fake [illegible] **8.00 The Kids Are Alright (1978)** [illegible] **9.50** Hit the Ne: A Love Story [illegible] **10.00 Stab Boys (1997)** [illegible] **11.45 Stand By Me (1986)** [illegible] **1.15am The Man without a Face (1993)** [illegible] **3.10 The Innocents (1961)** [illegible] **4.50** A Tune of the Earth [illegible] **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Miss Evers' Boys (TVM 1997) [illegible] **8.00 Home Front (1987)** [illegible] **10.00 Love at Large (1990)** [illegible] **12.00pm Miss Evers' Boys (TVM 1997)** [illegible] **2.00 Home Front (1987)** [illegible] **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night [illegible] **4.00 Love at Large (1990)** [illegible] **6.00 Forever Love (1998)** [illegible] **8.00 Intimate Relations (1995)** [illegible] **10.00 Last Man Standing (1996)** [illegible] **11.45 The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996)** [illegible] **1.50am The Proprietor (1996)** [illegible] **3.45 The Great White Hype (1996)** [illegible]

SKY MOVIEMAX

6.00am Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) [illegible] **7.30** Movie Magic Movie Mayhem [illegible] **8.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery [illegible] **9.00 Before He Wakes (1997)** [illegible] **11.00 Phenomenon (1996)** [illegible] **1.00pm** [illegible] **1.30** Movie Magic Movie Mayhem [illegible] **2.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery [illegible] **3.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997)** [illegible] **5.00 Before He Wakes (1997)** [illegible] **7.00 Phenomenon (1996)** [illegible] **9.00 The Rockford Files: Murder and Misdemeanours (1997)** [illegible] **11.00 The Night Caller (1997)** [illegible] **12.35am Kiss of a Stranger (1997)** [illegible] **2.10 Married People, Single Sex II: For Better for Worse (1993)** [illegible] **3.55 Mother, May I Sleep with Danger (1996)** (6165951)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Desert Rats (1953) [illegible] **6.00 King Kong (1933)** [illegible] **8.00 The Gunfighter (1950)** [illegible] **10.00 Spellbound (1945)** [illegible] **11.55 Zardoz (1974)** [illegible] **1.45am Three Faces of Eve (1957)** [illegible] **3.20 Artists and Models (1955)** [illegible]

TNT

9.00pm When the Lion Roars [illegible] **11.00 The Band Wagon (1953)** [illegible] **1.15am Callow (1971)** [illegible] **3.00 Where the Spies Are (1965)** [illegible]

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **8.30** Snow Show **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Scottish Football **11.00** Football League Review **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Total Sport **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Live Monday Night Football **10.15** Sports Centre **10.30** You're On Sky Sports! **11.15** Football League Review **12.15am** Sports Centre **12.30** You're On Sky Sports! **1.15** Monday Night Football Special **3.15** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** Golf **12.00pm** Rugby League **1.30** Basketball **3.30** Triathlon **4.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** V-Max **6.30** Powerboat and Jetsport World **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.00** Max Power **11.00** Cycling **11.30** V-Max **12.00am** International Bowls **2.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Saturday Fight Night **2.00** Golf **6.00** Cycling **7.00** Fish TV **7.30** Total Sport **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing A to Z of Motor Sport

EUROSPORT

7.30am Athletics **8.30** Biathlon **10.00** Alpine Skiing **11.00** Five-a-Side Football **12.00pm** Nordic Skiing **3.00** Cycling **4.00** Biathlon **5.30** Tractor Pulling **6.30** Dog Sled Racing **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Trial **9.00** Strongman **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.30** Boxing

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The British Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Hamish Macbeth **11.10** Open All Hours **11.50** The Bill **12.20am** The Bill **12.50** Blackadder II **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters' Social Club **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

King Kong gives Fay Wray a hard time in this scene from the 1933 version of *King Kong* (Sky Cinema, 6pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Get Back **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: A Goofy Movie (1995) 8.15** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel

FOX KIDS NETWORK

***6.00am** Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power* Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** Cartoons **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Cartoons **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** The Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Pandemonium (1982) 1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Preppies (1984) 5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Fibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbot and Costello

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Guyver: Dark Hero (1992) 12.00am** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30** Tales of the Unexpected **1.00 FILM: Automatic (1994) 2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** Potted History **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Dicemen **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again **3.00** This Old House **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Time Travellers **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** The Fire Below Us **10.00** Planet Ocean **11.00** Wings **12.00am** The Andes **1.00** Terra X **1.30** Time Travellers

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Black Beauty **12.30** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunters **6.00** Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Killer Instinct **11.00** Breed All About It **11.30** Emergency Vets

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Play: The Nature of the Game **7.30** Water: A Celebration **8.00** Lords of Hokkaido **9.00** Tribal Voice **10.00** Lost Worlds **12.00am** On the Edge

HISTORY

4.00pm Clash of Wings: The Skull is Called **5.00** Lighter than Air: The Golden Age **6.00** Ancient Altered States **7.00** Fabulous Fortunes: Wages of War — The Costs of War **7.30** I, Witness: Leaving Home

CARLTON FOOD

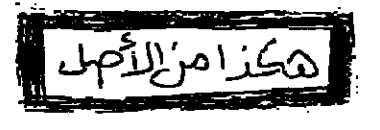
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Cooked in a Flash **3.30** A Slice of *the Action* ***4.00** Grape Expectations* **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Philbert the Frog **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Bababoos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Choices of the Heart (1983) 11.30** Sex Life Down Under

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Bane Ge Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Ahista Ahista 3.00** Bangla TV: Nokatrer Rat **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Gher Jamai **7.30** *Filmi Baaten* ***8.00** News* **8.30** Mausam **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Blunt Twc **12.00am** News **12.30** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmatan **2.00 FILM: Bengali Movie 4.30** Ebar Jombe Mowja





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Rentokil faces up to its earnings test

BUSINESS

EURO PLAN 46
Roger Bootle on Hamlet without the Prince



Trinity's £1bn bid hots up fight for Mirror

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE battle for control of Mirror Group began in earnest over the weekend as Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, tabled an indicative share and cash offer worth more than £1 billion for the newspaper and television group.

The Trinity offer, which is priced in the range of 205p to 215p a share, came as rival bidder, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the *Yorkshire Post*, decided to play a longer game. Rather than reveal its hand by submiting a new bid, RIM will, instead, make a formal application this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for permission to acquire Mirror Group, publisher of *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *Daily Record*.

This will trigger an automatic Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, which will take at least three months. The move by Trinity is a reversal of the previous roles of the two rivals for the group.

Trinity withdrew from earlier talks while RIM made the running with a 200p a share cash offer. Now it is likely that the future ownership of the national and regional newspaper company will not be decided until after an MMC inquiry into both the Trinity and RIM approaches.

From today, Trinity will be deemed to be in an offer period. The company will bring forward its annual results, which could be announced as early as today but certainly early this week. Pre-tax profits of more than £72 million are expected, compared with £63.3 million in the previous year. Trinity's hope is that the performance will boost its share price and in turn help to improve the value of any share offer for Mirror Group.

Mirror Group itself will announce its results on Thursday with pre-tax profits of £101 million before exceptionals expected up from £93 million last time. Analysts are currently pitching their takeover valuations in the region of 220p to 230p per share.

The inevitable delay in the determination of Mirror Group's future could place limits on the ability of John Allwood, chief executive, to act. He is believed to be looking at the sale of Mirror's 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media and Live TV. However, the Takeover Panel may decide that such disposals cannot be made in an offer period.

Trinity's strongest card is the preference of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, Mirror's largest shareholder, for a paper deal. It has a large number of big stakes in underperforming companies, and bought its stake at a high price. The fund manager is unlikely to accept cash unless it realises a significant profit, implying an offer price as high as 250p a share.

RIM, a private company, believes that *The Mirror* and in particular the Sunday titles, *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* need considerable investment to turn them round and that can best be achieved away from the gaze of the City.



ADRIAN SHERRATT

Lift off: Canary Wharf is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float. Although the company that owns and develops the Docklands site has never formally confirmed that it intends to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion. Story, page 45

C&W prepares for One-2-One flotation

By Raymond Snoddy

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is onsidering a flotation of One-2-One, the mobile telephone operator.

The telecoms group plans to cash in on investor enchantment with mobile phone companies. Analysts believe that One-2-One, a 50-50 joint venture between C&W and MediaOne, the US cable group, could be worth as mueh as £7 billion — £5 billion after debt. One-2-One is the smallest of Britain's four mobile phone companies with about two million subscribers but the whole mobile sector has seen rapid growth in recent months.

Cable & Wireless shares have performed badly compared with rivals such as BT, underperforming the telecommunications sector by 63 per cent over the past 12 months. The company believes that a flotation could release some of the value hidden in One-2-One.

Some analysts have wondered whether C&W would be prepared to sell its stake in the mobile company. C&W's new chief executive, Graham Wallace, made it clear in an interview last week that he sees mobile as a continuing part of the group, as one of the ways of delivering services to customers. C&W is more likely to be a purchaser of the MediaOne stake rather than a seller.

However, Mr Wallace explained that the relationship with MediaOne is a good one and there is absolutely nothing that needs fixing.

Corporate profile.................44

The float of a minority stake in the mobile group would help to put a market price on the company. The decision on whether or not to float One-2-One will be one of the first to be taken by Mr Wallace since taking over. C&W has been an underperformer because of uncertainty over its 54 per cent stake in HongKong Telecom and years of management instability, which the City hopes has been ended by the appointment of Mr Wallace.

C&W declined to comment yesterday on its future plans for One-2-One.

Apart from the likely One-2-One initiative Mr Wallace will concentrate on accelerating Cable & Wireless's plans to create a global data network based on the Internet.

Any initial offering of One-2-One would be a minority interest, probably in the region of 25 per cent of the business.

The ultimate ownership situation could then be clarified at a later date.

The obvious template is the success of Orange which was floated by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace in 1996 and is now valued at more than £10.5 billion.

Further rate cut expected

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week.

Although the MPC has reduced rates from a peak of 7.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, analysts believe there are few signs that the Bank is ready to call a halt to its cutting spree.

The Bank still believes there are significant downside risks. Eddie George, the Governor, said yesterday that there was little that he could do to further ease the pain suffered by the manufacturing sector. "I could seek to ease the pain but only by giving an aspirin and actually the underlying pain would be worse later on if I did." He added, however, that he thought the chances that Britain suffered a technical recession during the first part of this year were only about "one in four".

Virgin on BA's tail with Union Jack design

By Saeed Shah

VIRGIN ATLANTIC is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft to be unveiled later this year in a move intended to mock arch-rival British Airways, which dropped the national flag from its tailfin, to much derision, two years ago.

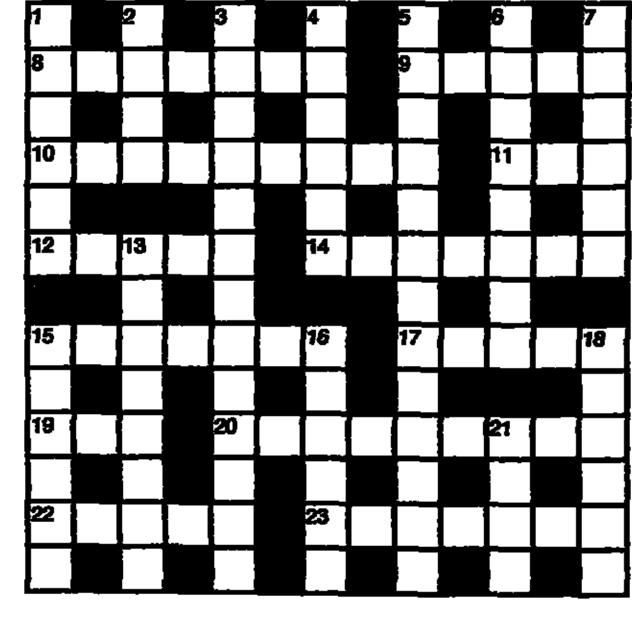
The new Virgin livery may feature the flag on the tailfins of its aircraft. BA said yesterday that it would press ahead with its new multicultural look, announced in June 1997. It has already painted 200 of its 350 aircraft with a range of internationally inspired designs, in place of "British" livery.

Paul Moore, a spokesman for Virgin, said: "Although we're an international company, we're proud to be British."

Virgin has spent "tens of thousands" of pounds on the new design for the outside of its aircraft, which will number 30 by the end of this year, in contrast to the millions spent by British Airways to come up with its multicoloured "ethnic" designs.

Richard Branson's airline will also unveil a new interior refit, costing £25 million to £30 million, which follows BA with a seat for business or "upper" class that can be made completely flat for sleeping. Virgin will also announce tnat it has applied for a route to Chicago. New routes to Chicago, Shanghai and New York will generate 500 extra jobs.

For its part, BA, which has been losing market share in business class, has begun a significant internal restructuring, which will divide the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and two long-haul businesses, one for Asia and the Middle East, and the other for the Americas.



No 1653

ACROSS
8 Capital of Kenya (7)
9 *Club for superintelligent* (5)
10 Bottom drawer contents (9)
11 Have debt (3)
12 Formal reasoning (5)
14 In irritable manner (7)
15 Make believe (7)
17 Cute Disney deer (5)
19 Beer cask (3)
20 A cuddly toy (5,4)
22 Gk. island, off Albania (5)
23 Pen in (7)

DOWN
1 Gradually introduce, establish (6)
2 Bye-bye! *(Ital.)* (4)
3 Conker tree (5,8)
4 Amuse; change course (6)
5 Spur-of-moment purchasing (7,6)
6 Speech of praise (8)
7 Table linen set (6)
13 Decorative foliage (8)
15 Coup d'état (6)
16 Work out by 12 (6)
18 Country S of Lebanon (6)
21 Way out (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1652
ACROSS: 1 Cycle 4 Furtive 8 Smothered mate 9 Ideology 10 Jilt 12 Squint 13 Infect 16 Bark 17 Bulldoze 20 Overawe 21 Sheba 22 Ensue 23 Odyssey
DOWN: 1 Cassius 2 Close quarters 3 Exhaling 4 Forage 5 Redo 6 Imagine 7 Eject 11 Anglesey 14 Therapy 15 Tuxedo 16 Booze 18 Opens 19 Wake

HoJo hotels enter UK

By Dominic Walsh

PREMIER HOTELS, the budget hotel operator, is bringing the Howard Johnson (HoJo) and Days Inn brands to the UK in a £300 million development project.

Building has beguin at two sites as part of a franchise agreement signed last year with Cendant, the troubled US consumer services group that owns the Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Ramada and Super 8 budget hotel brands.

Although Cendant's hotel brands are little known internationally, they dominate US economy lodging. Days Inn claims to be the world's biggest hotel brand, with more than 2,000 hotels, and Howard Johnson has 650, although only 150 are outside the US.

Premier Hotels is already a big Holiday Inn Express franchisee, with seven units open and six under construction. Under its deal with Cendant, it plans to open 60 Howard Johnson and Days Inn units in the next three years. Premier aims to open more than 1,000 rooms in London alone, and the first hotel will be a £9 million, 162-room Days Inn near the Imperial War Museum, due to open in November. In West Bromwich, work has begun on an £8 million, 140-room Howard Johnson, to open in October.

Hinchliffe quick on the draw as cartoon investor

By Fraser Nelson

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield businessman accused by the Serious Fraud Office of ten counts of corruption, is trying to revive his career with children's cartoons.

He is in talks to buy the rights to *Sunshine Sammy's Battle of the Elements*, a cartoon dreamt up by Jim Stanton Barber, a 71-year-old inventor who became a millionaire by devising a draught excluder. *Sunshine Sammy* is also being backed by Patrick Moore, the astronomer.

Mr Hinchliffe is expected to run the business with his son James from Parkhead Hall, Sheffield — the same offices he used to control his Facia retail empire before it collapsed.

Mr Stanton Barber, a friend of Mr Moore, said: "Poor old Stephen has had a real bashing and been accused of conmanship, when he didn't do any conning. He is completely honest, quite shy and a very very nice chap indeed."



Sunshine Sammy: new investor

Mr Hinchliffe, still being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry over Facia's collapse, said yesterday that talks over the cartoon venture are still at an early stage.

However, minutes of a meeting in January between Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Stanton Barber state that Mr Hinchliffe has agreed to buy the sole trading rights to Prime Concepts, the company that owns the rights to the cartoon. Mr Stanton Barber said: "It's a done deal. Stephen has not put his signature to it because that is not the way he does business, but he has promised he won't go back on his word."

As he is legally forbidden from being a director, his role in Prime Concepts is "main investor". Mr Stanton Barber, who has spent ten years developing Prime Concepts, said: "This cartoon should go on to make billions. If I get 13 per cent of billions, I won't complain."

Mr Stanton Barber says he is to talk this month to Michael Caine, the actor, about investing in *Sunshine Sammy*.

The cartoon's characters, based on the weather, include General Thunderhead, Jack Frost and Monsoon Mary.

